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ELECTION '97: no one's pulling our strings

THE TABLOID AUL No thanks,

says Virginia Ironside



Yes please, **Bridget Jones**



(IR45p) 40p

NEWS

The family who murdered their mother PAGE 3

tes: It's going to be May Day, senior Tories confirm

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1997

Senior Conservatives said last night that if John Major had not called a general election by next Wednesday, be would hold fire for his favoured date of

1 May.
Options are being closed by the strict timetables that apply to election dates, and an annext week if he is to call an elec-

tion on 20 March. It emerged at Westminster yesterday that a 20 March poll is the only way in which Mr Major can be certain of averting the Wirral South by-election, in hich the Conservatives are facing humiliating defeat.

A 20 March poll would mean

week on Monday. But h would smack of panie if Mr Major did oot give at least two or three working days' notice of his intentions - to give time for Par-liament to tidy up and clear the

legislative programme. In 1992, Parliament was dissolved on 16 March, but the election announcement was made by Mr Major on 11 March. In 1987, the announce-

ment was made on 11 May, with Parliament dissolved on 18 May. Parliament would have to be dissolved for a 20 March election on 24 February - which suggests an announcement by next Wednesday at the latest. Speculation that the Prime Minister might hope to kill the

by-election by calling an election for the next-favoured option, 10

April, is ruled out by the fact

that Parliament would not be dissolved until 12 March - giving the new Wirral South MP plenty of time to take his seat. Some ministers and MPs have argued that if Mr Major announced his intention to call an April election on 24 February - three days before the byelection - that would be coough to get the by-election called off. But that decision would be in

the hands of Phil Manson. Wirral South's acting returning officer, and all the indications yesterday were that Mr Manson woold feel obliged to continue with the by-election.

Although the definitive election guide, Parker's Conduct of Elections, makes no reference to the problem, guidance assed by the Commons library says: "If on [the by-election] polling day, the acting returning officer might well consider he had no authority to cancel the election."

It would be open to Labour to challenge cancellation of the be-election in the High Court. If Mt Major cannot be certem of getting the by-election called off, colleagues said yesterday, he would be better off soldiering on until I May.

senior colleague said yesterday. The build up to the election continued apace yesterday, with Mr Major holding a press conference on education - at which he was forced to issue a public

rebuke to Health Secretary

Stephen Dorrell for his blunder wer the Scottish parliament. Tury clouds to Wirral, page 5 Dorrell rehuked, page 5

Bad results to cost jobs of teachers

Education Editor

Teachers whose pupils fail to match up to national standards may be sacked under new government measures designed to increase parent power announced yesterday by the Prime Minister.
Schools will have to report to parents

on whether they are meeting national targets and there will be more league ta-bles. Mr Major said as the pre-election battle over education intensified ... -

Both the main parties claimed that the other was stealing their ideas on how to raises transferds. Labour said John Major had done a U-turn on target-setting Mr Prime Minister accused Labour of playing "carch up" politics.

Ministerial announcements came tumbling out of Whitehall and West-

minister. A press briefing by Gillian Shophard, the Secretary of State for Education, on the strengthening of A-levels, was overshadowed by another at Conservative Central Office where the Prime Minister, backed by Mrs Shephard disclosed the new league table

plans.
Teacher unions described the decision to appealse teachers partly by their pupils, tost and exam results as "the policy of the madhouse". Heads said more league tables would be streamously opposed by the entire profession.

New school reports will have to include -schools' own targets, the local authority's target, the national target, the na-tional average target and the achievement of similar types of schools. Mr Major said. Hit squads will be sent into failing local authorities.

Performance tables for National Cur-riculum tests will be published for pupils aged seven and 14 as well as for GCSE and A-level pupils as at present. The first tables for 11-year-olds will be published

of their children's schooling."

David Blunkett, shadow Secretary of tary of State to imply that there is some State for Education, said: "Two weeks ago, Labour proposed a new national literacy target as an addition to the Edu-

cation Bill. Education Minister Eric Forth refused to accept the clause. Now, two weeks later, we have another U-turn from ministers as they accept yet another Labour proposal to raise standards." Only a week ago, he added, Labour had announced its plans to im-

prove poor local education authorities.

On league tables, he explained that Labour would continue to publish na-tional tables of GCSE and A-level results but would require results for seven and 14 year olds to be published only by local authorities. The party would decide later what to do about tables for 11-year-

Mr Major ridiculed the idea that which it had backed for several years. The
Prime Minister accused Labour of playing "camb-up" politics.
Ministerial announcements came

Labour was the party of higher standards.
"We should judge Labour by their oppositions, not their words, by their opposition to our reforms and by the fact that the 20 worst performing education anthorities have all been under long-term Labour control," he said.

Mrs Shephard promised tough action against under-performing teachers. She said: "We shall now be introducing a rigorous appraisal scheme for teachers, judging them on their pupils" perfor-mance. Where necessary we will be removing teachers who cannot reach the required national standards."

New criteria to judge teachers were being drawn up including classroom control, organisation, lesson planning, abil-ity to convey enthusiasm for the subject

and pupils' performance.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of
the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. said: "On the face of it, years of development of teacher appraisal are to be swept aside in the interests of a few sec-onds of prime-ministerial soundbite in the Conservative Party's increasingly desperate attempts to catch the big idea on

But David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teach-Mr Major said: "The next stage of our parent power reforms will ensure once and for all that parents are the masters cluding the results of their pupils. What cluding the results of their pupils. What is wholly unacceptable is for the Secreeasy route for removing incompetent teachers."



In the picture: A Papuan boy, photographed by Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, and on show until Friday in the Tenth Annual Photographic Exhi-bition by the Parliamentary Photographic Group in the

Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons. Another of the exhibitors, Lord Healey, passing it, remarked that it reminded him strongly of certain young Conservative candidates in the forthcoming election.

Dorrell humiliated

John Major issued a humiliating rebuke to his Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, over Mr Dorrell's claim that a future Conservative govern-ment would abolish a Scottish par-liament. Page 5 Page 5

Russia's nuclear threat Russia yesterday threatened that it might use nuclear weapons pre-empto conventional attack. The move was Leading article, page 11 designed to put increased pressure on Nato.

British Oscar hopes The English Patient and Secrets and Lies topped the British aominations for Oscars. Page 2

Vlora any scontinues
Furious citizens of the Albanian city
of Vlora yesterday set fire to the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Party and changed slogans accusing the government of murder as they joined

dead during the riots earlier in the

Spendthrift puritans Britons are becoming a nation of speodthrift puritans, shying away from conspicuous consumerism, but indulging in regular treats which and

Bath sacks Hall

John Hall, Bath Rughy Club's champion team manager and former world-class flanker, was sacked from the funeral of a man who was shot his £60,000 job.

Labour under fire on junkets Christian Wolmar criticisms. A spokesman for

Westminster Correspondent

The Tories went on the offensive yesterday, attacking Labour over the revelations of junketing by Labour councillors in Doncaster and suggesting it was typical of Labour waste in

local government. The Independent revealed yesterday that members of Doncuster's ruling Labour group had been on expensive foreign trips and taken drunken working lunches" costing £50 per head.

The Conservative chairman, Brian Mawhinney said: "Doncaster Labour councillors represent new Labour Party in power. The rest of the country should learn the lesson. It's not what Labour leaders say, its what Labour politicians do when they are in power that represents the danger to this country."

The Tories tried to widen the attack by pointing out that Labour councils have increased thorisation for the trips. When ey they give to councillors and whether he had been to Poland allowances have gone up in or Sweden, Mr Sellars said he areas controlled by Labour or could not remember. the Liberal Democrats.

Council had even set up a dature, it is unlikely he will be working party to examine whether councillors should receive redundancy pay if they are voted out of office.

Labour played down the affair, merely calling for a copy of ning to block the candidature of the report from the District Au- any councillors who have been ditor containing many of the on unauthorised foreign trips.

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the party's North and Yorkshire office said: "Once we have gone through the report, we shall then be recummending action to be taken in relation to these councillors involved,"

The party was also dithering over the selection process for the Don Valley constituency, with Tony Sellars, one of the councillors who went on trips abroad at the council's expense, emerging as the local favourite.

Mr Sellars, chairman of the Doncaster Labour group, has won the first two nominations by local ward parties for the seat which is vacant because of the death last month of the sitting MP, Martin Redmond.

The Independent yesterday said Mr Sellars had been one of a number of councillors who had taken trips abroad on council taxpayers' money and that the district auditor was concerned about lack of proper au-

While publicly the party can-The Tories said Cardiff not rule out Mr Sellars' candiplaced on the final shortlist drawn up next week by the National Executive Committee The Independent has learned that Labour Party HQ is plan-

Witch spells trouble for council chiefs

away but the broomstick was oo a controversial council there as the men from the scheme to move a south Loncouncil arrived for their meet- don children's playground to a ing with Kevin the Witch. He and his priestess, Sandie,

a financial adviser from Barclays they did their best to give Southwark council's head of parks a warm welcome.

Ou?"

Greenwich is getting involved my Brand and his assistant, now," said Mr Brand, sitting un-Robin Hayworth, were the un-

Sussex to try to talk Kevin Carlyon. High Priest of British
The cats were safely locked Witches, out of casting a spell new site in the borough.

A number of residents, who suspected the council was plan-Bank were in their robes but ning to sell the site to developers, called in Mr Cariyon to stymic the scheme - a threat the Labour-controlled council was "I see you didn't come taking seriously.

alones" Kevin said to Colin
Brand. "Afraid I'd sacrifice cerned because the Bishop of

comfortably on Kevin's sofa. luckiest council officials in "Some parents are worried Bringin yesterday. It was their And there are rumours that task to travel to Hastings in East you're going to cast spells that he'll have to go along and sentatives of the Bishop of essary. After an hour spent parents are worried that's that's we'd we'd we'd we'll was their task to travel to Hastings in East you're going to cast spells that



Spellbound: Kevin the Witch (right) with Colin Brand (centre) and Robin Hayworth yesterday Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid could burt the children. The do his thing to exorcise it."

to the proposed new playground, said he had planned to invoke Christian goodness to counteract Kevin's pagan spell - a spell that would involve only wishing local residents success in their campaigning.

"I had planned to say prayers in the church at the same time as he was casting his spell," said

ley-style confrontation.

Woolwich, the Right Rev Colin Buchanan and the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Roy ground, with Tarzan swings and Williamson, denied that they a rubber surface on which chilwere planning a Denis Wheatdren will bounce. Mr Brand, a cool man in a crisis, convinced However, the Rev Michael Kevin the Witch that the spell would not be necessary. Counsell vicar of St Augustine's church in Honour Oak, nearest "It sounds like a smashing

new playground," said Kevin.
"In fact, we've decided to east a new spell instead, wishing the project, and all who use it. great fun and success." It was clear yesterday that the

Church of England wasn't too keen on witches' spells, so what about the new one? "Well," said Mr Counsell. "if

Mr Counsell. that's what he's going to do.
But that won't now be necwe'd welcome him with open

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Labour victory as Howard retreats on bugging plans

Labour claimed victory last night as the Home Secretary anoounced a retreat over plans to legalise the "bugging and burgling" of private property by the police.

Michael Howard said in a written House of Commons answer that police would have to apply for prior epproval from a government-appointed security commissioner in all but urgent cases. Where the matter was urgent, they would have to apply within 24 hours. The Government was defeeted in the House of Lords on the issue after Lahour withdrew its previous support for

The Liberal Democrats claimed last night that the measures still did not provide adequate safeguards for the public. The party, which has opposed the measures all along, said there was no adequate definition of the circumstances in which exceptions could be made. The Law Society said the Bill remained flawed.

EU warned on overriding Parliament

The European Union was warned yesterday that it must not attempt to curtail the proposed rights of member parliaments to have a say on EU legislation.

In a report on the current inter-governmental talks dealing with the future of the Union, the Commons European Legislation Comminee said a new treaty "must give those who will be affected by legislation time to see it in draft and to have an input into the process ... Its provisions must not be so circumscribed, or diluted by exceptions, as to make them

The committee, which continues to complain about "unacceptable delays" in the receipt of texts of draft European Union legislation, said it considered effective parliamentary scrutiny a touchstone of the [EUs] ... d for the rights of the citizen." **Anthony Bevin**

☐ Select Committee on European Legislation. The Draft Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments. Thirteenth report, session 1996-97, Commons paper 36-xiii. HMSO; £8.

Wife of NUM leader wins job back



Anne Scargill, the wife of miners' leader Arthur, look on the Co-op esterday - to fight for her job. But rust minutes before an industrial tribunal was due to start, negotiations ended with her announcing that she had won and would be back at work on Monday.

Mrs Scarpill lost her £7,000-a-year job with the Co-operative Society in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, last August. She received a £4,200 redundancy pay-off for her 31 years' service and then discovered three

days later that her former employers were advertising for 50 more staff.

Despite being taken on by the Co-op at Rochdale, Mrs Scargill decided to fight for her old job back. "I was not prepared just to take the redundancy mouey and go without a word. I was angry and I wanted my old job back." Mrs Scargill, from Worsbrough, Barnsley, claimed unfair dismissal but discussions before the scheduled hearing in Leeds ended with the announcement that she had won her old job back.

Nigeria pressed over jailed Briton

Diplomatic pressure was growing on Nigeria last night over the detention of a Briton held without charge in the West African state for almost seven weeks. Officials earlier branded as "wholly unacceptable" the detention of 42-year-old Bruce Henderson, who was detained by the authorities in the sensitive Bakassi Peninsula while working on a World Wildlife Fund rain forest project.

A spokesman at the British High Commission confirmed that Mr.

Henderson, from Chapel of Garioch, near Invertile in the north of Scotland, is in good health and is being held in Lagos.

Still no verdict in tax fraud trial

The jury in the trial of Michael Allcock, a senior tax inspector accused of taking bribes from wealthy foreign businessmen - including holidays and the services of a prostitute - in return for tax favours, was sent home for a second night without reaching any verdicts yesterday. Mr Allcock, 47, from Colchester, Essex, has denied 11 charges of corruption between 1987 and 1992. The seven women and five men of the jury will return to court today to resume their deliberations.

Priest recovering after stab attack

A Roman Catholic priest was recovering in hospital yesterday after being stabbed in the back at his church. Father Edward Carroll, 63, was stabbed between the shoulder blades as he went to a kitchen to make tea for a man who had come for help to the Sacred Heart Church, Holloway, north London

Police said It was thought the man had followed the priest to the kitchen and stabbed him with a kitchen knife. The victim was taken to the Whitimpton Hospital and later transferred to the Middlesex. His condition was today said to be "serious but stable". Scotland Yard said the man had called at the church, was allowed in and engaged the priest in conversation.

After the stabbing, a man telephoned police and later gave himself up

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people



Epic cinema: Ralph Flennes and Kristin Scott Thomas in Minghelia's tale of love and war

Tonic for British film-makers as Oscar snubs Madonna

glittering share of the 1997 Oscars as Hollywood offers one of the most interesting and ecleutic Oscar line-ups In years.

The English Patient, which has alworld, starring the very British Ralph Fiennes, was promised the higgest sweep on Academy Award night, with 12 nominations announced in the traditional predawn ceremony yesterday.

The other contenders for the ma-

Jor prize, Best Picture, featured just inaled for Best Picture, Best Actor one film from a major Hollywood studio: Jerry Maguire, the story of a sports agent, starring Tom Cruise The Australian Shine, the off-beat American crime story Fargo, and the very English Secrets and Lies are also in the running.

But another disappointment for Evita, the film version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, came with Alan Parker failing to make the cut for Best Director. Madonna, in the title role, ... also found herself shut out, despite being named last month as best actress by the Hollywood foreign press In the Golden Globe awards, traditionally e dry run for Oscar night.

No disappointment though for the British director of Secrets and Lies, Mike Leigh, and actress Brenda Blethlyn, who were nominated for Best Director and Best Actress.

Kenneth Branagh's star-laced ready won rave reviews around the Hamlet did not fare well. But only Branagh, it was said, could have won a nomination for Best Screenplay (based on material previously published or produced) on a four-hour film advertised as Shakespeare uncut.
The English Patient was nomi-



Madonna: Surprise omission

(Fiennes), Best Actress (Kristin Scott Thomas), Best Supporting Actress (Juliet Binocha), Best Director and Best Screenplay (Anthony Minghella), art direction, cine-matography, sound, dramatic score, costume, and film editing.

Fargo and Shine won seven nom-Inations, and Jerry Maguire and Se-crets and Lies-earned five. The nominations confirmed Hollywood's mounting love affair with the lowerbudget independent film. If anything captured the spirit of this year's choices, it was that Brenda Blethlyn. playing a weak-minded workingclass mum, is in hot competition for. e Best Actress slot with France McDorman's pregnant policewoment in Fargo. A thoroughly American jable Fargo was a product of Briton Tim Bevan's Working Title contrany.

Prominent also-rans included Trainspotting, the critically acclaimed film about Scottish heroin addicts, which failed to net a single major nomination. And, at the other end of the scale: Independence Day, an a blockbuster "event" film about aliens zapping the world's major cities, barely got a look in.

Tim Comwell, Los Angeles

Triplets are transplant pioneers

A 40-year-old man donated five feet of intestine to his triplet brother in a life-saving transplant operation, it emerged yesterday. The successful operation follows the suddan, tragic death of the third triplet, who had initially agreed to be the donor for Phillip Jones, a formur heating engineer from Totton, near Southampton.

It is the first time British surgeons have carried out an intestine transplant between identical sihlings, and only the seventh such operation on an adult at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Sir Roy Calne, the pioneering · surgaon who performed the operation, said yesterday: "This is an extreme example of devotion and love between two brothers who happen to be triplets." He said that intestinal transplants were notoriously difficult, but using organs from identical siblings

tion and other complications. The operation was carried out

last Sentember, but news was witheld until doctors were satisfied that Mr Jones was recovering well. He is at home and can eat normally after four years of being fed on an intravenous drip. The donor, his brother Peter, a carpenter, is also well and unlikely to suf-

fer any long-term ill-effects. Phillip'e health problems hegan four years ago, after he broke his leg while playing football. He de-veloped e blood clot in his abdomen and was unable to digest food. His health deteriorated

rapidly. Tractors decided to at-tempt a transplant. Yesterday, Peter said: "It was a big decision to take. But at the end of the day, I love my brother and I think anyone in this room

Police investigate 'suspicious' death of sitcom actor

An investigation has been launched into the "euspicious" death of 1970s sitcom actor Barry Evans. 52, star of the series. Doctor in the House, and Mind Your Language. His body was found at his home in the village of Claybrooke Magna, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, on Monday night. He is balleved to have died sometime on Sunday.

Mr Evans is thought to have been unemployed and recently worked as a taxi driver. His body was found after police went to his house following the recovery of his white Montego car in tha nearby town of Hinckley on Monday night.

Three people were arrested near the spot where the car was found and are being questioned on suspicion of murder. Jason Bennetto

briefing

Market forces mean rosy outlook for football

The financial future of English football is brighter than at any time since the late 1940s, according to a statistical analysis of clubs' financial performance in the latest issue of the International Review of Applied Economics. Authors Stefan Szymanski and Ron Smith argue that the Taylor Report has forced clubs to invest in facilities.

they would have had no incentive to provide of their own accord.

Between 1974 and 1989 the game made big losses, showing a profit in only six years. But the introduction of market forces via the exposure of a stock market listing – there are now a dozen. quoted clubs and another half dozen planning to float - will force them to turn e profit in future. Newcastle would probably not have paid a record £15m for Alan Shearer if it had had to answer to external shareholders.

International Review of Applied Economics, January 1997, Carfax



ECONOMICS

High street spending bounces back

The fortunes of high street shaps improved last month, following the weaker than expected Christmas shopping period, according to a report published yesterday. The value of retail sales in January rose by 4.9 per cent on the same month in 1996, and was a marked improvement on the 4.3 per cent annual increase recorded in December. The British Retail Consortium, which compiled the

report, said the figures were "reassuring" as they suggested retail sales would underpin economic growth in 1997.

January's figure, which is measured on a like-for-like basis which compares the same area of selling space, has still not shown a return to the levels of 6 per cent growth recorded last summer. Across the three months between November and January, sales grew by 4.7 per cent, the lowest three-month rate since last spring.

ROADS

Bridges crumble in cash squeeze

Britain's roads and bridges are inadequately funded, leaving much of the network in a poor condition, a report by the all-party Commons Transport Committee said yesterday. The lack of money could lead to bridges having to be closed, which would hit business and industry.

The overwhelming message from the evidence we have received is that spending on national and local road and bridge maintenance has been insufficient to maintain these important national assets in 'good condition," the report concluded. "If bridges are unable to cope with heavy lorries, they will have to be closed or weight-

limited in some way. Such measures could isolate many businesses. ... and there are likely to be many instances where firms will suffer as a result.". Randeep Ramesh

EMPLOYMENT

Men losing out in job market

There I million fewer jobs in Britain than when John Major came to power, with men bearing the brunt of the slump, according to analysis of government figures by the House of Commons library. Statistics published by Ian McCartney, Labour employment spokesman, in advance of today's official jobless figures, show that the workforce in employment has dropped from 26,175,000 to 25,178,000. The number of men in work has declined from 14,622,000 to 13,562,000, but the number of women with jobs rose marginally from 11,553,000 to 11,616,000. Barrie Clement

ENVIRONMENT

Counting cost of tanker disaster

The short-term environmental impact of the Sea Empress disaster. in Wales was considerable and could have been even worse, according to e report yesterday from the committee set up by the Government to assess the damage.

At least 5,000 birds died, including a quarter of an flock of sea ducks, in the disaster e year ago this week. Some it km of coasiline were arkeded by Britain's united targets, married spillage, after the Torrey Canyon in 1967 and the Braer four ye ago. It is now estimated that more than 3,000 tonnes of crude t was washed up on beaches.



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lunuary 1997, Carfax Diane Coyle

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The family who killed their mother

صكذا من الاجل

Jonathan Foster

Eve Howells demanded regular massage from Glenn, her teenage son, sitting naked in the bedroom as the boy squirmed. averting his eyes from her "pri-vate parts". She made both her sons clean the dirt from her toenails, spat abuse at them, beat them, and tied them to the kitchen table. She threatened to burn their teddy bears.

She blamed Glenn for the death of her first-born, and sat naked on the toilet when he showered. She abused him "on a global scale", a clinical psy-chologist told Leeds Crown Court. Glenn was 15 when he smashed his mother's skull with the sharp and bhunt ends of the hammer. Something had gone in his head, he told the court. Blood hit the ceiling, and then Glenn felt her pulse. "I want-ed my mum back." he said. She used to call him "a fat fucker".

Yesterday Mrs Howell's hus-band, husband David, and two teenage sons, Glenn, now 17 and John, now 16, were convicted of her murder by a jury. Mrs Howells, 48, died as the culmination of a plot hatched by the three to rid them of the source of persistent sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

The judge, Mr Justice Alliott, will today pass sentences of life imprisonment on Mr Howells and indefinite detentions on Glenn and John. But he said he wanted to give lawyers additional time to prepare address-es which may influence his







Photographs: Ross Parry

Hell on earth: Glenn (teft) who struck the fatal blows with a hammer, Mrs Howells (centre) with the boys as toddlers and John (right)

recommendations for minimum periods of detention. "Although I entirely endorse the verdicis, I don't know the whole truth' the judge said.

The boys and their father planned various plots before Glenn was inspired by the Crimewatch programme to take a hammer to his mother at their Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, during a burglary while their fa-ther was safe in the alibi of a pub darts match. But forensic evidence and police suspicions, aroused by the trio's absence of grief, led to the prosecutions. It was almost a paradoxical

killing, the violent member of "the family from hell" in the morgue, her victims in the dock. Mrs Howells taught at a Huddersfield secondary school.

to a colleague. She was "very, very disturbed", she said. She was "Belsen thin. She

said she had cancer, but there was little wrong with her body. She had a string of psychosomatic disorders, her doctor said. He put her on Valium and sleeping tablets.

She "swiped" an inheritance

bequeathed to her father, and amassed a £155,000 personal She terrified pupils, according fortune. Her salary was saved,

and household expenses met from her husband's wages. David Howells drank too much: he was cuckolded by his best friend, frightened of his wife. and 100 weak in beed the boys'

advice to get divarced. They lived at "Garth Edge". a bungalow with ity around the replacement windows, it stands on a middle-class street protected by privet and sleeping policemen, but Mrs Howells was

far from suburban discreet. One neighbour abandoned sitting in his garden because of her cursing, another remembered bath-time for the children. "The screams that used to come nut were like someone was murdering them", the court heard. "It was almost as though she was

drowning them. John was his mother's favourite. He was not spared abuse, but enjoyed privileges,

sweets when he did the pedicure and a proper tea when she made Glenn on with hread and

iam. John was "overly compliant", social workers said. John said: "She was always a hitch ... she treated us like dirt." At the age of 5, John would

open as many as 18 tins of food when he came home frum school, take a spoonful from each, then conceal them. He would urinate in the litter bin, and break toys. A psychiatrist said he was young to be acting like that, and was probably rebelling against her discipline.

Three days after they es-caped her discipline by murder, the boys went into town to celebrate their liberation. They had

their ears pierced. Jurors heard conversations between the three, "bugged" at a police station on the authority of an assistant chief constahte. Farensie evidence had put the boys by their mother when the blood flew. David Howells had behaved suspiciously, any

feelings of bereavement subordinated to a thirst for alc. He told the boys to stick to the story, bluff if out. "If you two

break, then I'm in as well." But the enduring impression of the tapes was Glenn's misery. "Gnt no dad any more ... got no mum and dad ... want me mum." he sohbed.

The boys made confessions but told different stories. David Howells stuck to his; he found nut what the boys had done, never condoned it, but tried to contrive a plausible cover-up.

John said his father joined the plntting "a little hit". John sadmissions consisted of "wicked lies", his father said. Glenn said his father knew nothing.

Under cross-examination, Glenn was asked: "Would you have killed your mother without the approval of your father, depriving him of a wife?" "She deprived me of my life," Glenn

British Rail: The end.

(Farewell to age of steam and curly sandwiches)

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Rail. The end of the line came yesterday after the Government announced that the last trainset in public hands was to be given to coach and rail giant

National Express. The sale of Regional Rail-ways Central - whose network stretches from Wales to Norwich -will put the nation's vast passenger rail network in private.

British Rail was nationalised in 1948 by the Atlee government. But its card was marked in the 1960s by Dr Richard Beeching, BR's chairman, who considered it a business not a social service. Since then poor investment - by both Labour and Tory governments - saw the once-proud network become the butt of commuter jokes.

THE MOST

OF YOUR

SAVINGS AND

INVESTMENTS

British Rail's ride to the stock market was remarkably quick. Agreements on the predere have pleted in just over a year. The new owners of the last seven franchises were revealed in just over a fortnight. The impending election quickened the pace.

The sale of the Central franchise to National Express, makes the bus group the largest operators of trains in Britain. Privatisation will see Scottish trains run by National Express, an English coach company, and the largest chunk of British Rail in the hands of a French

company, Connex. Franchising has turned the unified national railway network into a disorganised patchwork

Jonathan Bray, campaigner with Save Our Railways, a group set up to halt the sell-off. For some observers, howev-er, the railways should never

National pride: The railways' heydays inspired great engineering feats - such as the Forth Bridge, shown in the BR poster by Terence Cuneo ed in 1825 when George Stephenson's steam locomotive graced The Stockton &

Darlington railway line. The Victorian railways were firms, many went bust.

The rise of the railways was cut short by the motor car in the 1920s. This saw the plethora of smaller companies bought up by larger rail firms. In 1923, only

structure has created a new se- of the largest rail franchises, has ries of rail barons prepared to provided a "poor" service. Its investors found he had paid cut services should passengers desert the railways. Virgin's Richard Branson owns most of the Intercity services, including the 700 miles of West Coast mainline. Anti-privatisation

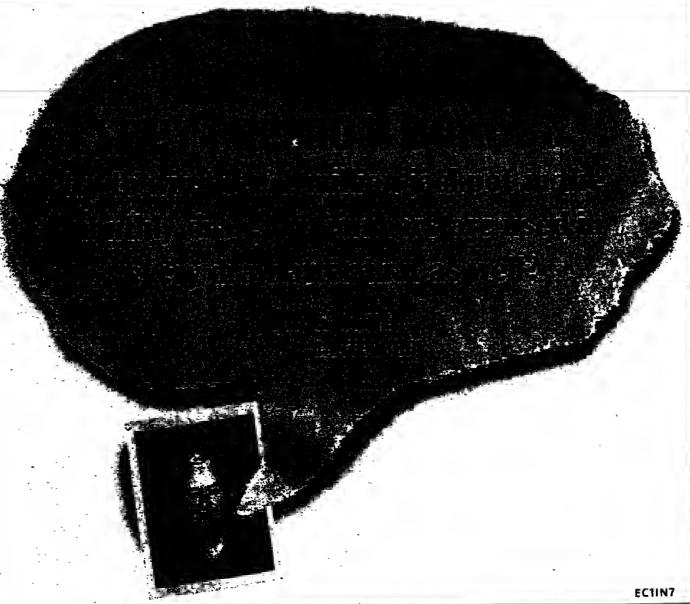
company, South West Trains, was forced in cancel hundreds of trains this week.

However, this pales into insignificance when one remembers George Hudson - the last "railway king". In 1844, he con-trolled more than 1,000 miles of

railway. His fall was rapid after more than £290,000 in share dividends in line his own pockets. Despite its fall, British Rail

only be finally killed by an Act of Parliament - an unlikely event before the election. South West fined, page 16









turbines star in end of the pier show at 0

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

Clacton-on-Sea is to get a new end-of-the-pier show. The world's largest offshore wind farm, and Britain's first, is to be out to sea, where the winds are planted on a sandbank four stronger and less turbulent and miles off the Essex coast.

The Government has given its hiessing to the pioneering £35m project with its 40 huge turbines by ordaining 15 years

the electricity it will generate, thus making the wind farm commercially viable.

Advocates of wind power have long been urging a move can produce extra power. Offshore developments are more expensive to install than their onshore counterparts but there are likely to be far fewer complaints

of guaranteed stable prices for about wind farms ruining the scenery, and about noise.

The turbines, 230ft tall from sea level to the tips of their topmost hlade, will generate enough electricity for a town of 70.000 people. They will be clearly visible from the Essex seaside towns of Clacton and Frinton. But they will be sufficiently distant and dispersed to not dominate the horizon. The construction of the tur-

will be carried out by a Dutch company, Windmaster, it is hoped by the end of next year. The company's development manager, Englishman Christo-pher Glen, said he hoped up to 50 per cent of the turbines

hines and their emplacement

would be made in Britain. "It's a flagship project," he said. "You get smoother, steadier winds affshore and it's becoming increasingly difficult to

get planning permission for new wind farms on land."

The United Kingdom has the higgest "wind resource" in Europe, hut Germany, Denmark and Holland produce more electricity from this source than Britain. There are now 34 onshore wind farms in the UK. providing enough electricity for a city the size of Cardiff. The cost of their power has been falling steadily and is now close to competing with coal and gas fired wer stations.

Last week, the Government announced that a further 65 wind turbine projects would qualify for guaranteed, stable prices. This means that all electricity consumers pay a small subsidy above the free-market price for power. This system is used to encourage the development of non-polluting, renewable energy sources.

The Government has not yet named the successful projects or informed their backers but The Independent has learnt that they include two offshore wind farms -at Clacton and a much smaller one, with just two turbines,

off Blyth, Northumberland. Wind turbines at sea do not need planning permission from local councils, and yesterday Tendring council - which covers Clacton and Frinton - knew

Glen said local people and the council would be kept fully in-

formed and their views sought. But the project will have to get avoid any threat to shipping or fishing. And it will have to reach agreement with the Crown Estate Commissioners to rent the seabed which, up to 12 miles offshore, belongs to the Queen.
The money will go to the state.

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Drug-testing in jails raises fears. of heroin abuse

Patricia Wynn Davies

One of the country's leading drug addiction centres has been ment." asked by the Prison Service to investigate "drug switching" by prisoners from cannabis to herom to beat mandatory drugs tests.

couraged some prisoners to switch from cannahis to opiates.

drugs tests.

Despite assertions by
Michael Howard, the Home
Secretary, that the random testsuccess, the service gave the go-ahead for the study by the Na-tional Addiction Centre at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, earlier this mouth.

It follows repeated claims that inmates are turning to hard drugs such as heroin or crack cocaine which remains de-

Service aims to complete 60,000 tests a year, either randomly or

on suspicion. Mr Howard told the Prison

creasingly effective deterrent, as well as identifying drug users both for punishment and treat-

far from stamping out the drugs problem, the tests have en-

and a rise for opiates.

A study by Sheila Gore, of the

that of a drug reduction and re-

But latest results suggest that

ing programme is on course for success, the service gave the go-ahead for the study by the Na-19.74 per cent, while those testing positive for opiates rose from 5.01 per cent to 6.35 per cent. Tests based on suspicion during the same period saw a similar reduction for cannabis

crack cocaine which remains detectable in the hloodstream for only one to three days, compared to 20 to 28 days for cannabis.

The tests were introduced in eight pilot establishments in February 1995 and later extended to all jails. The Prison ming at £16,000-£22,000 a month for a 500-prisoner iail month for a 500-prisoner jail. the scheme cost at least twice

habilitation programme.

Case studies obtained by the Service conference yesterday that he believed mandatory testing would become "an in-

at HMP Erlestoke was serving

two years for drug-related offences. He failed a random test last autumn and was given the standard punishment of serving an additional 14 days. He then switched to smoking heroin to avoid further positive tests. He

told his parole officer that this was not uncommon. A 26-year-old remanded at Durham on charges of grievous bodily harm and affray was a regular cannabis user and switched to smoking heroin to beat the tests. He said heroin was as easy to obtain as cannabis.

A 24-year-old from the South-west who was sentenced to three years for various bur-glaries switched from cannabis to heroin and became a heavy user. He claimed his habit was developed while he was in HMP Shepton Mallet.

Harry Fletcher, Napo assistant general secretary, said: "The implications of the switch

"An increase in tieroin de-pendency means an increase in crime. Needle-sharing is a high-risk activity and drug abusts."

Segers told lies to save football career

The former Wimhledon goal-keeper, Hans Segers, yesterday admitted having cheated and concerned he had been break-

admitted having cheated and lied, but insisted he had never thrown a football match.

The former player, accused of being part of a plot to rig Premier League games, told Winchester Crown Court that he had lied to his wife and the part of the par had lied to his wife and the ponad ited to his wife and the po-lice and had cheated the tax-man. But he denied "throwing" any matches including his side's game at Everton in May 1994, when the Merseyside team won 3-2 in stay in top flight football. Dutch-born Mr Segers, 35, the former Wimbledon and As-ton Villa striker. John Enshape

ton Villa striker, John Fashann, 34, the former Southampton and Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar. 39, and a Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, 31, all deny conspiracy to give and accept cor-rupt payments. All four also deny being part of an alleged plot to influence the outcome of matches for the benefit of a Far East betting syndicate.

Throughout a day in the witness box. Mr Segers repeatedly said he had never thrown a match, or been asked to. At one point he was in tears as be explained why he had lied to po-

ing Football Association rules by forecasting match results for Mr Lim. Mr Segers has told the court he was forecasting Dutch matches and helping with information on some English matches for Mr Lim, who passed tips to a wealthy indonesian benefactor who

liked betting on games.

"I thought everything was going to be taken away from me, my livelihood," Mr Segers said.

"Football was everything I had got. I wake up with football and go to bed with football."

That was why he had lied Mr

That was why he had lied: Mr Segers agreed with David Calvert Smith, for the prosecution, that he had lied to his wife, Astrid, in the early 1990s.

The court has heard that there was an article in a news-paper at that time exposing a sexual relationship Mr Segers was having. He said his wife gave him an ultimatum that if it happened again he would be packing his suitcase. Mr Calvert

else?" Mr Segets replied: "Yes. I did." He agreed that he had to tell lies about where he was.

and get people to cover for him and he covered for Mr Fashamu when he had similar problems. When asked if he had delib-erately failed to declare how much he was earning to the Inland Revenue, Mr Segers replied: "It was just very fool-ish of me."

Asked how much income he failed to declare, Mr Segers said:
"It's difficult to say."
Mr Segers has told the court

that some of the money he paid into a Swiss bank account was profits from a tie business, given to him in cash by his Dutch-

based partner to save United Kingdom tax.

The Crown claims it has linked payments of £104,000 into the account to Wimbledon matches alleredly redesired by matches allegedly targeted by

the syndicate.
Mr Segers also confirmed he had made up stories when in-terviewed by police, such as that he did not know Mr Lim, hard-ly ever spoke to Pashanti and Smith said: "Having heen that money in the account came shown a yellow card by your partly from car crime in The wife, you offended again? You Netherlands as a technique. The case continues today.

Clouds Fears applied thes

State or transfer season and administrates are persuading Torses to switch to Labour Michael Strocker

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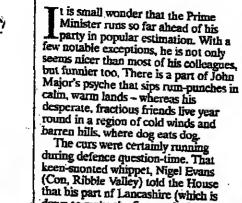
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Little Street Comments



thousands of jobs in the Preston area". So was not Labour's proposed defence review a pile of old knob? Having delivered himself of this abuse of question-time, a silly exaggeration and piece of chronic wish-fulfilment all at the same time. Mr Evans subsided with an artful imitation of genuine anger on his pinched features.

All who were involved - or listening were exhausted by this kind of idiocy by the time we got to Prime Minister's questions. Those who believe (like Douglas Hurd) that all is basically well at Parliament, should examine a copy of vesterday's Hansard and see for themselves with what contempt the concept of ministerial accountability is treated by the ruling party.

Aaronovitch

House game of baiting the Beast for telling the truth

ceased to have any function other than being a piece of partisan theatre. Only the most unbiddable or bolshy backbenchers ask any question other than the one that the whips have written out for them. And usually these are either Labour quips aiming to expose

dither, or Tory plants trying to suggest danger.

But someone in the PM's office had been doing their homework. The under-secretary with responsibility for sending out cards on the occasion of hirthdays had noticed that yesterday was the 65th

anniversary of the birth of the Beast of Bolswer, Dennis Skinner, Clever chaps at No 10 sat around and wrote out a little question for one of the reliable backbenchers to ask, and an amusing series of responses for the PM to come back with.

So, the Blair-Major ritual being done. Tim Devlin (Stockton S) arose to ask the PM to reflect upon the acquisition of pensioner status by the honourable member. The House mared, some sang Happy Birthday Dear Be-ast, Mr Major

delivered his lines well and warmly. But what of Dennis? He seewled furiously and refused to smile. Perhaps he knows that little is more nauseating than his adoption as tame ranting revolutionary by an utterly unfrightened House. Or maybe he is just vain enough not to want his advanced age discussed

publicly. But the more he secwled, the funnier everyone thought it all was. "I hope he smiles before he's 66". Major sked, with spot-on comic timing. Flouring convention, Speaker Betty

Boothroyd called an anger-ruddy Skinner to reply. And Dennis, gurning like in attenuated Les Dawson - celebrated his 65th in the same way he probably marked his 5th - with a disconnected rant about the appalling Tories and their leader who had "come from the belly of the banking establishment", given us Black Wednesday and doubled the national debt.

Oh, how we all laughed! For though every word that Skinner said was true, we all knew there was sod-all that anybody (apart from the nice Mr Major) could do about it.

1997 • THE INDEPEN

nothing about the projection said local people a conneil would be kept is formed and their views.
But the project will have

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very serious. An increase in herondency means an increare. Needle-sharing is at activity and drug sees control problems

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Seger also cultural made in stories when a seed by police, such a lab and a seed by police, such a lab and a seed by police, such and and a seed by seed as a seed and a seed r spake to Fashalli a r spoke to Fishing one only in the account on the from cal crime in riands as a leenileef.

down to make the fins, or the belly, of the Eurofighter) had not forgotten the cancellation of the TSR2 by Harold Wilson, which had "cost hundreds of

CORING THE EXCHANGES

leim

REAIR'S AFTACK

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

The importance of the defence adjustry for jobs, Prill Gallie (C. Ayr):

Persioners' incomes and Dennis Skinner's 65th britiday (Tan Davies, C. Shoot-tog South)

State asked whether Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell should not be concertrating on the "tage and mantlest crists" in the KHS, rather than devokation. Major replied that Robin Cook, when shadow Health Secretary, said at one point deviated from the Labour line on devokation.

ited from the Labour line on devolution.

isn't 65, and I'm fiddling the tigmes."

Skinner was the only one not to taget.

I hope he smales before he's 66, Ma-

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

South) Ichael Portillo and the Boyal Yacht (Alex Cannon, Leb, Fedding and South)

Major pointed out Blair's inflating habit of using pre-prepared anomalistics. Unfortunately the went on to grop a favorable soundblar of his about Labour using the 70-15 as a political "footbal". Beyond the

Blair pointed cit. Major's initiating habit of agreeing a question with another question. However, if any question can be guaranteed to spack a round of non-answers and statistic-awapping at Constitution lime, it is one about the NHS, which the distribution.

was "becoming quite commerce in his old-

Using stone asked whether Major and Seen the letter he recleved from the Defence Secretary, admitting them had been "blooding warrare experiments conducted on the civilian populations in London and stong the South Coast," and would Major set up an independent inquiry? Major said he had not seen the letter.

John Whitingdale IC, South Colonester and Majdon) asted Major to confirm that he gld not intend to abolish generous schools. It is possible, the first select Report at least hest challenging question. Does he not agree that there want to know he challenging questioned in government, you only thing to obtain Labour in local government.

PM's Os, of course, has long since

Dorrell rebuked by Major in devolution row

Fran Abrams and Colin Brown

John Major yesterday issued a humiliating rebuke to his Secretary of State for Health after a series of cabinet splits over the issue of Scottish devolution.

In a move that will be widely interpreted as the latest skirmish in the Conservative Party leadership battle, the Prime Minister publicly sacked Stephen Dorrell from an extra role on the constitution.

The Prime Minister used a press conference on education to claim that Mr Dorrell had never even held the campaigning post at all.
The Health Secretary had

told a newspaper that a future Tory government would abolish a Scottish parliament set up by Labour - a claim which was then refated by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth. Mr Major said yesterday that it was he, and not Mr Dorrell,

who was in overall charge of policy on devolution. "Responsibility for the constitution rests with the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and

ways been the case and it remains the case. "As Michael Forsyth has said for a long time, if you have an omelette like that, it isn't an omelette that can be readily un-

It is not the first time that Mr. Dorrell has been accused of straying from his brief in the interests of pursuing his leadership ambitions.

In January, he caused a similar furore when he suggested that Britain's relationship with the European Union should be renegotiated. Mr Dorrell privately sought

to limit the damage, which could dent his long-term amhitions for the Tory feadership, telling friends that he would still speak on constitutional issues. He faced further embarrass-

meot later in the House of

Commons, when he announced a retreat on the NHS Primary Care Bill. Labour's health spokesman, Chris Smith, accused him of "backtracking" twice in two days. "It is the Secretary of

State's week for backtracking." he said. "He spent most of yesterday trying unsuccessfully to extricate himself from the hole that he has injudiciously planted himself in with Scottish devolution. Now he has climbed down over a central feature of Wales," he said. "That has al-

Mr Dorrell announced, as The Independent reported yesterday, that he would table an amendment to the Bill to prevent private companies such as he said.

supermarkets hiring family doctors to open surgeries.

Yesterday's manocurrings indicated a new intensity of electioo campaigning. Two new planned policy changes suggested that the Government was anxious out to let Labour gain the initiative.

In Parliament, Mr Major indicated that he was prepared to look at the possibility of making Holocaust denial illegal. and revealed that he was planning a meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, followed Labour proposals to force disclosure of sex offences to schools and other agencies with his own proposals to let residents know when a sex offender moves into their neighbourhood.

Last night, Labour's head of election strategy, Peter Mandelson, accused the Conservatives of "jackdaw tendencies". Several Labour initiatives on education had been copied, he said, along with a commitment to flexible pensions, plans to help lone parents back to work and proposals to outlaw stalking.

"Bereft of their own ideas and out of touch with the public's mood, the Tories have decided to launch a wholesale raid on new Lahour's policies,"



Trade talk: President Alberto Fujimnri of Peru visiting Baroness Thatcher's Belgravia offices yesterday while in London for the Latin America trade forum Photograph: John

Clouds still hover over the Conservatives in Wirral

Fears about the state of the NHS and education are persuading Tories to switch to Labour

Michael Streeter

Labour are on course for a spec-tacular by-election victory in Wirral South as canvassing yesterday showed that the early trend of disgrantled Conserva-tive voters switching to Labour seems to be continuing. At the centre of this swing is

the barometer ward of Bebington, a mixed residential and industrial area in the north of the constituency. It was once a safe Tory area but in the last three years Labour has won three council seats in local elections and Bebington is oow an important battleground for the two main parties. Many people in the area are what politicians call the "aspirant" classes: people who have moved from Liverpool or Ellesmere Port for a better standard of living, schools

and housing.
Yesterday under a grey cloudy sky the mood in Village Road, Bebington, reflected dismal prospects for the Conservarives and their 8,183 majority. Claire Francis, 24, a tour operator, voted Conservative in 1992 but will now vote for Labour's candidate Beo Chapman. Her reasons echo the views of many people inter-viewed by The Independent.

"It's all about the state of the health service. From what I have seen it's time for a change," he said.

She believes that Tony Blair is charismatic, thinks John Major has lost the plot and while accepting that many people, including herself, are fed-up with politicians, she says a new govermment is essential. "Otherwise I will be in despair," she said.

This desire for change is not confined to the young. A retired newsagent George Thompson, 67, has always voted Conservative - until now. He cites pay in the NHS and education but is also tired of the "sleaze" surrounding the government and its attitude of "giving jobs for the



Social harmony: Workers and residents together in a memorial to William Lever, the philanthropist founder of Port Sunlight in the Wirral South seat Photograph: David Rose

boys". His fears about what a Labour government might do m power have been allayed by the party's reforms. "Tony Blair is much more in the middle now, but I would not have voted for

Neil Kinnock."

Mr Thompson's disenchantment reflects the findings of an opinion poll at the weekend which suggested that Labour could win a comfortable majority on 27 February. But as the poll also hinted he is not so sure who to vote for in the general election - though he will probably still opt for Labour.

Many Tories have still to

make up their mind. Brian Sumner, 49, a clerk, is con-cerned about the NHS, and also law and order. "The health service seems to be deteriorating and it appears more dangerous as far as policing is concerned.

I fear that the fabric of society is beginning to crumble at the

edges," he says. But as a new homeowner, Mr Summer is unsure what a change of government might bring. "Is the cost of living going to rise under a Labour government? Will interest rates go up? I just don't know who to believe." The Conservatives have

fought the campaign by trying to localise national issues and

in particular have hammered appressively on the likely fate of grammar schools in the coostituency under a Labour government. Helen Owen, 35, a Labour voter, said grammar needed taming but the Tories schools were the first issue are now out of touch. They call raised at her door by a Tory canvasser, who said the schools' fate would be uncertain under a Blair administration. "Doesn't that worry you?" he asked her. After a brief conversation the canvasser left telling her: "You should stay indoors more and

watch more TV." Mrs Owens said: "I was quite surprised by the attitude. He was quite rode.

Though the strategy has pro-voked a further "clarification" of Labour's stance on selective schools and despite claims by the Conservative candidate Les Byrom that the message is get-ting through. The Independent found little evidence that the ammar school debate is influencing votes - though many voters were worried about the general standard of education. One Tory supporter who asked not to be named said it would not decide her vote. What worries me is John Major. He is just a puppet."

Roy Clarke, 51, an engineer,
once voted Conservative but

now feels they have gone too far tion and Conservative values - with a small c. "The unions themselves Conservatives but they are the radicals."

There is a feeling among Labour voters that the tide is turning their way and claim that friends and family are helping switch votes. Andrew McGuffie 52, an insurance agent, said: "My father-in-law has always voted Conservative. He is now talking about voting Labour." Yet many Conservatives are

finding it hard to cootemplate changing sides despite their anger at the party. Ivor and Helen Pierce said they would "grudgingly" vote for John Major again even though they did not much like him. They said they did not trust Tony Blair.

Such die-hard sentiments are the reason why Labour activists caution against too much optimism in a seat which does not feature in their list of "mustwin" target constituencies for the general election. But in their more sanguine moments they are hoping that the voters of Bebington might just swing it for them.

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news

Puritan Britons become nation of secret bingers

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

spendthrift puritans, shying away from conspicuous consumerism but indulging in regular treats which end up costing us more, according to

After tightening their purse strings in the early 1990s, when the recession bit, people have started to spend beyond their means, the market analyst

Mintel said yesterday.
While personal disposable income has increased by 8.8 per cent since 1992, consumer expenditure has improved by 10.5 per cent. But concerns over joh security and the lack of the feelgood factor have led to a dripfeed approach to spending on smaller indulgent items, such as chocolate, takeaway meals, magazines and cinema tickets.

We now spend almost as great a percentage of our income on gambling, due to the National Lottery, as we do on school fees, including parental contribution to student grants

Domestic & garden help Educational fees

Other vehicles

insurance

House purchase

Sickness & accident

Medical Insurance

Gambling (losses) Recorded music &

musical instruments

up by 53 per cent over the past five years, convenience food has increased by 32 per cent and

male toiletries by 37 per cent.
The British Lifestyles report
calls the phenomenon "the hidden recovery". It reports that credit is fuelling what is regarded as a "mini-boom". helped by the ease of pay-later terms in the high street.

But the feel-good factor still eludes Britons. Few consumers feel they are becoming more affluent, for which the report thinks there are several reasons.

while wages may have risen in real terms, consumers, used to hig absolute increases, do nut regard them as high enough to

go on a spending spree.
Continuing worries about joh security discourage consumers from committing themselves to huying items which require large amounts of money, but buy indulgence products instead as a sweat for being 6 instead as a reward for being financially prudent, or to cheer themselves up after a bad day

They shrink from the kind of

% change

marked the Eighties' boom.

Home ownership is also seen as a powerful arbiter of how people view their own personal

A decade ago home owner-ship accounted for 40 per cent of net personal wealth. Today the figure is nearer 25 per cent. This is due to a higher proportion of money being tied up in assets such as life assurance and pension funds. They now account for onethird of all personal wealth. As Low inflation means that a result, most people do hile wages may have risen in not feel as "well off" as in the

> The higgest concern for 20- to 34-year-olds is money limiting their lifestyle, though for 35- to 54-year-olds this is superseded by health.

Areas that are likely to see good rates of growth in the long term included domestic help and garden help, which have grown 294 per cent over the past 10 years, medical insurance, which is up by 190 per cent, and education - up 293 per cent.

Men are having to adapt to a changing society where more people live alone instead of moving from the parental home to the marital home. Only 12 per cent of men do not usually shop for groceries. But they are still more disorganised as they depend on the availability of convenience stores which are open long hours.

Men are also more likely to eat takeaways because they cannot be bothered to cook, and convenience foods now account for a quarter of in-home food sales. People are also eating out more with 25 per cent claiming

to eat out regularly.

British Lifestyles 1997; £995; from Mintel on 0171 606 6000.

Timeless: Tamara Beckwith (left) and Christina Estrada model Christian Dior creations from Mintel on 0171 606 6000.

Timeless: Tamara Beckwith (left) and Christina Estrada model Christian Dior creations from 1947 at the Imperial War Museum, south London, where an exhibition opens today to mark the 50th anniversary of Dior's post-war 'New Look' Photograph: Absolute/Vincente

bring back the latchkey kids

Where we spend our spare cash

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James Cusick

Britain is producing a large new generation of "latchkey" children. According to a na-tional survey, 350,000 five-to-11year-olds, or 9 per cent of pri-mary-school children, go home to an empty house and watch television. The conclusions, published

yesterday, are from a report by the Kids' Clubs Network, a vol-untary group which organises af-ter-school childcare. The findings are described as a "situation of unease", with children "becoming more isolated" and "tempted into crime through boredom and lack of amenities".

Most parents questioned for the report agreed the life of a latchkey child was "lopely and potentially dangerous", with a third of all parents worried about what happened to their child after school hours.

With 70 per cent of mothers with primary-school children working, the report says that in addition to the growth of latchkey kids, a quarter of all primary-school children now go to and from school without adult supervision.

Coming after recent research on the negative effects of working parents on children's educational development, the findings are likely to add to the

By Siobhan Campbell

Yet still you cream me with that smile.

I cannot go, you'd follow if I leave.

the little scrape of hate

edging the high notes of your voice.

I can hear

The Constant Welcome

The constant welcome floors me. I live here. I have arrived.

I do not fight, you'd twist my words to please.

do you know what I can hear

when your eyes are widening as they want to close?

debate on childcare. At a conference in London yesterday to launch the latest research, the director of Kids Clubs Network, Anne Longfield, said: 'We can't on the one hand encourage parents to take up employment and training and yet gnore the lack of after-school

childcare provision."

The 9 per cent figure comes from research which said 6 per cent of children were "definitely left alone" hut added that the true figure, given parents who masked the situation, pushed it up to 9 per cent.
At the conference, Labour's

education spokesman, David Blunkett, called for the "development of a national network of after-school clubs to ensure that all children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment at the end of the school day". Mr Blunkett widened Tony Blair's recent call for homework centres by saying that "after-school clubs, together with after-school sport and leisure, are the antidote to the latchkey kid waiting in an

empty house ... Although Labour has said it intends to make after-school care a priority, expanding the voluntary sector in conjunction with the Government, an specific targets or funding have yet been given.

DAILY POEM

Working lives | Pop culture to be held in storage

pop culture being produced.

Under proposals made pub-lic yesterday, Spice Girls CDs, television sitcoms and CD-Rom games would be ranked alongside Jane Austen and the classics of English literature by a legal obligation that they be stored for posterity.

At present there is a legal requirement that every new book be deposited with the British Library. But there is no obligation on record companies,

plosion in electronic information, admitting it would be necessary

to build massive storage spaces. National heritage minister Iain Sproat regretted that some early episodes of Dad's Army had been lost because of the lack of a legal requirement to keep them. He had no problems with the work of the Sex Pistols being stored for posterity.
"Our descendants should be

exposed to the Sex Pistols," he said. "All these things should be

channels to deposit their prod- ology of the United Kingdom is rubbish?" Mr Sproat asked. The Government is planning massive new warehouses to store every piece of electronic change this because of the exof future generations, who will gain entertainment and instruction by hearing or watch-

ing what we enjoy today." Even one-hit wonders should have their one album legally deposited, he said: "The reason wby a one-hit wonder was a success, hut never a success hereafter, would be of interest to future sociolneists."

He cited the example of the poet Robert Herrick, who was not widely read or appreciated

CD-Rom producers, film makers and commercial television important looking at the soci"Who are we to say something "Who are we to say something

tioned whether too many books were being kept. "We might want to ask if the British Library should be keeping every new edition of Jane Austen's Pride

and Prejudice," he said. At present, there are voluntary arrangements for the deposit of films, videos and sound recordings. All BBC output is archived, but only about 30 per cent of the output of commercial channels.

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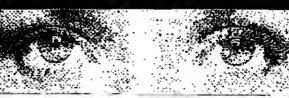
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Leading article, page 11

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This poem comes from Making for Planet Alice: New Women Poets, edited by Manra Dooley (Bloodaxe, £8.95): an anthology of 30 poets who all published their first collections during the 1990s, including Mimi Khalvati, Jackie Kay, Sophie Hannah, Alice Oswald, Kate Clanchy and Lavinia Greenlaw. "The

Constant Welcome first appeared last year in Siobhan Campbell's book The Permanent Wave (Blackstaff Press).

A-levels remain on the gold standard

Broader and better exam as sixth-form study is diversified

Sixth-formers will be able 10 study for broader and better A levels from next year, but this year's 18-year-olds can be confident that the standard of their exams is as high as ever.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, terday announced measures to strengthen the GSCE A-level exam as inspectors reported that its standard has stood the test of time.

From next year, the AS-level exam syllabus, pitched half way between GCSE and A-level, will be revamped to encourage pupils to study more subjects in the sixth form. Consultation will begin on a new ASlevel in communication, numeracy and information

technology.
There will also be a voluntary National Advanced Diploma involving at least four different areas of study, including either maths or science. Students who wish to acquire the diploma will have to demonstrate their. knowledge of core skills.

A-level syllabuses will change to make them more rigorous, Mrs Shephard said. There will be more British history, more emphasis on pre-1900 English literature and on knowledge of grammar and syntax in modern anguages. English language exams will also concentrate more on grammar and all candidates will have to take a cal-

culator-free paper in maths. The number of exam boards will be reduced, probably to three, which will offer both academic and vocational quantications.

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Photograph Absor.

Mrs Shephard said key skills were an essential element of guaranteeing standards: "Employers want the qualifications system to be simplified, comprehensible and to include key. skills, as a measure of employability," she said.

A report by the schools in-spection watchdog Ofsted gave a generally clean bill of health to A-levels, countering traditionalists' allegations of decline

for the second time in two

months. Despite claims that the A-level gold standard has been debased by "grade inflation", the study found standards were consistent over time and between exam boards. It said syllabuses were generally well organised, procedures were thorough and assessment was

The report came just two months after a joint report from Ofsted and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority found no evidence of any overall fall in standards over the past 22 years. The study published yesterday looked at the standards and quality of A-levels and AS-levels in seven subjects, based on a two-year inspection in England and Wales.

Inspectors analysed syllabuses, cram papers and mark-ing schemes and scrutinised more than 2,000 scripts for 1994-6 and found a "high level of consistency" over the three

They also found that a new code of practice introduced in 1993 had brought exam boards more closely into line.

However, the report calls for more formal measures to be put in place to ensure standards stay steady. It recommends more systematic procedures to make sure A-levels on the same subject from different boards are comparable and to gnarantee standards over long periods. The inspectors found modu-

lar syllaboses, which put less emphasis on one final exam, had boosted the enthusiasm of students. However, they warned exam boards to take care not to let modular exams get in the way of other A-level courses or schools' general operation. The inspectors' report acknowledged the difficulty of setting standards in A-levels - the thorny problem which underfies the grade inflation debate.

The report says the process "complex and difficult" and "depends to a large extent on professional judgement - it can never be completely precise".

Testing times: the six ages of a schoolchild AT II YEARS OLD

AT 4/5 YEARS OLD

NOW: Around half of primary schools already assess children on entry at four or five to check their abilities in the three Rs

and identify any special educational needs.

FUTURE: From September next year, the system will be formalised, with all schools expected to assess children according to nationally-set criteria within their first term. These "baseline tests", being piloted from this September, will include numbers, reading and writing, as well as abilities such as concentration and practical skills such as washing hands and tying shoelaces. Schools will set the findings against results of tests at seven to measure their success in educating children.

NOW: All state primary or middle schools are required to test children at 11. The key stage 2 tests, which are standard across the country, ower English, maths and science, and are supported by teacher assessments in all three subjects. By 11, pupils are expected to have reached level 4 on an eight-

1995, will be published schoolfor the first time next month. The tables will cover tests sat last May in 16,000 primary schools in E

National Curriculum standards. FUTURE: The results of tests for 11-year-olds, introduced in by-school in league-table form

AT 14 YEARS OLD NOW: State secondary schools must test pupils at 14 at the end of key stage 3 of the National Curriculum. The tests, introduced in 1993, cover English, maths and science.

By age 14, pupils are expected to have reached level 5-6 on a scale of eight used to measure national curriculum standards. though by this age they may have moved to the top of the scale if exceptionally able. The results of tests for 14-year-olds are currently published only in terms of overall national

performance.
FUTURE: Reports on overall national results will be supplemented with annual league tables showing individual school's results.



NOW: State and independent secondary schools must publish the exam results of pupils aged 15-16 for inclusion in national league tables. The tables, inmoduced five years ago and pub-lished annually in November. show the percentage of eligible pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C the score taken as the benchmark measure in order to rank schools); the percentage gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A*-G; and the percentage gaining one or more GCSEs at grades A*-G. Vocational qualifications, mainly intermediate level General National Vocational Qualifications, are also included, together with truan-

cy levels. **FUTURE:** No change under the Conservatives. Labour would include more information showing "value added" by

17/18 YEARS OLD

NOW: State and independent secondary schools with sixthforms must publish A-level results, together with results of AS-levels and vocational qualifications, for inclusion in national league tables. The tables show how many pupils in each school were entered for fewer than two A-levels or ASlevels and the results they achieved, and the oumbers and scores of pupils taking two or more exams.

FUTURE: The present AS-level exam, which covers half the content of A-levels but to the same level of difficulty, is to be replaced by a new exam equating to the first half of an A-level course. It will be sat mainly by pupils aged 16 to 17, at the eod of their first sixthform year.

point scale used to measure ATT YEARS OLD NOW: All state primary schools pupils are expected to have are required by law to test chil-dren at seven - the end of the reached level two on a scale of cight used to measure first "key stage" of the National Curriculum. The nationally-set tests, introduced in 1991, al Curriculum standards. FUTURE: Reports on overall national results will be supplecover English and maths. They mented with annual league taare designed to sum up what bles showing individual school's pupils have achieved over a defined range of each subject by the end of a set period at The tests are backed up by teacher assessment in English, maths and science, which takes account of other evidence of achievement. By age seven,

Low standards at £2,600-a-term school for children of the forces

Education Correspondent

An independent boarding school widely used by the children of forces personnel whose fees are paid by the state has serious weaknesses and is breaking the law on health and safety, government inspectors

saidyesterday. water, in Somerset, uncovered... bad management, sub-standard teaching, poor assessment of pupils and low exam results.

It also found that the 82-pupil school failed to meet the legal minimum requirements on

health and safety and pupil welfare. Staff were inadequately trained in child protection pro-cedures and some pupils did not know there was an "independent listener" not employed by the school to whom they could

turn with concerns. Much of the school was very cold and some areas were unsafe, including workshops and Office School, oear Bridgwith broken glass on the floor and unlabelled chemicals.

The report, by the government schools inspection watchdog Ofsted, will renew concerns over public money being spent on the education of children of service personnel in a largely

uninspected independent sec-tor. In 1994-95, the Government year. It has written to the school spent £107m on school fee allowances for service personexpressing concern at the report and asking for its plans for re-medial action. nel serving abroad. The Ministry The inspection report idenof Defence provides a boarding

school allowance of np to tified some strengths, including £2,248 per term for secondarygenerally positive attitudes to age pupils, though parents must contribute at least 10 per cent work among pupils and a "su-perficially broad" curriculum. But it called for a wide range of of the fees. The MoD provides parents with a list of schools supplied by the Department for Education urgent improvements, including more supervision of pupils. measures to make workshops and other areas safe, more teacher training and better planand Employment, but does not check or approve them. The ed-ucation department is not oblig-ed to inspect independent

ning and target-setting.
No one was available for comment at Quantock School

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Wall of silence from white vouths at Lawrence inquest

The inquest into the death of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence degenerated into a "mockery" of the legal system yesterday when five young white men refused to answer any questions relating to his death.

The "wall of silence"

surrounding the killing of the promising A-level student stabbed in an apparently racist attack as he waited for a bus in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993 - was maintained as the five men repeatedly claimed the commoo law right of privilege against self-incrimination at the hearing at Southwark coroner's court, south London.

The five were Neil Acourt, 21, Luke Knight, 19, and Gary Dobson, 21, who were all formally acquitted on a charge of murdering Lawrence at the Old Bailey last year, and Jamie Acourt, 19, and David Norris, 20, who never stood trial.

Their reactions to questioning at the inquest exasperated Michael Mansfield QC, for the Lawrence family, and the Southwark Corocer Sir Montagne Levine

"It's completely pointless. These young men have decid-ed its say absolutely nothing on any accasion to absolutely any-



Stephen Lawrence: Knifed to death waiting for a bus

thing," Mr Mansfield told the

Questioning Jamie Acourt, Mr Mansfield said: "There has been a wall of silence about this case. There is somebody who knows much more than they are prepared to admit and therefore I must be entitled to ask ques-

tions which perhaps touch the conscience of those who know."

But his questioning drew little response. Af one point, he asked Mr North Are yoo sponse when asked by the conscience of those who know."

The young men, who all lived near the scene at the time of the attack, all gave the same response. Af one point, he attack, all gave the same response when asked by the conscience of those who know."

The young men, who all lived death, Dr Shepherd told the court. The hearing was adjourned until today.

22 April, 1993; whether they could tell the court how Stephen Lawrence received his injuries; and if they knew of anyone else who could give details concerning the circumstances of

As the five men - clad for the tion of whether he was willing most part in jackets, waistcoats to listen, Sir Montague also and nes - rose to leave, the coroner issued a warning: "I "You have to be prepared to wish to make this very clear, listen," he told Mr Norris, "oththere must be no attacks on witnesses. That won't serve justice

at all in any way."

that Stepheo had run 130 yards

Lawrence, left the court in distress as Dr Richard Shepherd. not even prepared to say whether you can think about the who cooducted the postmortem examination, said the question. What I suggest then is that you have all decided to teenager was stabbed twice come here and say oothing at with a weapoo similar to a

at the scene of the murder on ter, he replied: "I am claiming privilege on that question."

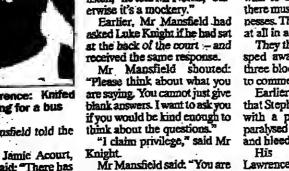
Mr Mansfield said: "It's an abuse. He's an automaton. He's standing there claiming privilege on everything."
When Mr Norris also his death. claimed privilege to the ques-

> They then left the court and sped away in two cars with three bloode women, refusing Earlier, the court was told

with a punctured lung and paralysed arm before collapsing and bleeding to death.

His mother, Doreen

kitchen knife.



programme from 19 inspec-

Russia resurrects spectre of nuclear holocaust

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

weapons pre-emptively in future conflicts, in response to conventional attack.

The move was clearly designed to put increased pressure on Nato at the start of historic negotiations about alliance exvansion to the east and a linked Nato-Russia charter.

Ivan Rybkin, the Secretary of Russia's Security Council, told the Rossiiskaya gazeta daily that response will be fully-fledged, and we will choose the means

including nuclear weapons". ported as a threat to end Russia's policy of "no first use of nuclear weapons", though many Western observers doubt whether it ever really had such a policy. There had already been indications that the idea, based on a promise Mikhail Gorbachev was abandoned in Russia's 1993 military doctrine.

The 1993 doctrine implied that nuclear states or states allied to them might be nuclear targets, whether or not they used nuclear weapons first. Yesterday's statement was clearly directed against neighbouring countries like Poland which, if it joined Nato, would be an ally of nuclear states.

Such a policy makes sense, given the appalling weakness and decomposition of Russia's conventional forces, with low morale and troops unpaid for months. Officers are now failing to turn up for work in order to earn money elsewhere.

In such circumstances, any serious attack on Russia could force the Russians to respond with nuclear weapons which inigence sources say are still carefully controlled, despite last week's reports to the contrary.

But diplomatic and Nato sources believe yesterday's statement forms part of a classic Russian negotiating technique. At the Madrid summit in July, Nato is likely to issue invitations to some east European countries

Republic and Hungary, to join. The Russians like to take the strategic offensive - establishing Russia yesterday threatened an extreme forward position - that it might use nuclear and then exploit the tactical advantages of the defensive. Negotiations between Nato's

Secretary-General Javier Solana and the Russians started on 20 January. Since then, the Russians have made a series of statements designed to alert

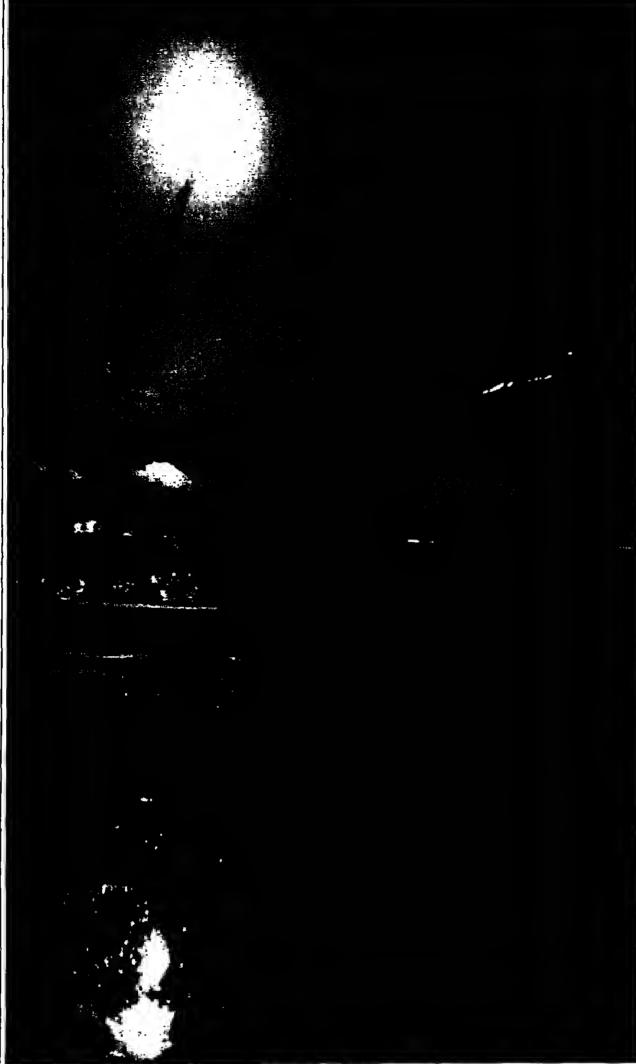
the West to their predicament.
On Friday, the Secretary of
the Defence Council, Yuri Baturin, and the Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, said the "in case of a direct challenge our nuclear forces were in danger of going out of control.

Russia has between 7,000 and 8,000 strategic nuclear weapons and an estimated 2,000 tactical warheads. But the Russians will strive to keep control over these weapons above all others. Westem experts dismissed the claims as exaggerated, while admitting that the disintegration of conventional forces could make nuclear first-use more likely. In fact, nuclear weapons se-

curity is still the responsibility of the FSB (heir to the KGB) which receives better pay and conditions than the armed forces. They have a "dual key" arrangement with the strategic missile troops of the armed forces. The threat of nuclear weapons going "out of control" relates to the reliability of staff who keep the weapons working. Nuclear weapons also have a finite shelf-life; some componeuts degrade and therefore have to he replaced - that costs money, which is not available.

Last week's statement was designed to get more money from the Duma - the Russian parliament, whereas yesterday's was a clear shot across the bows of Nato and the main candidates for membership. ■ Moscow (Reuters)

strike by hungry workers at a nu-clear shipyard in the town of Severodvinsk near the northern port of Arkhangelsk could escalate into a riot unless they are quickly paid long-overdue wages, a local union leader has warned. He said there had been cases of workers fainting from - including Poland, the Czech hunger and a number of suicides.



Space chase: A photographer tracking the space shuttle Discovery on its pre-dawn lift-off yesterday from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The shuttle is

carrying a crew of seven on a 10-day mission to catch up with and service the Hubble Space Telescope

Albanians torch ruling party's HQ

Balkan turbulence: While anarchy threatens Vlora, a logiam in the

Belgrade parliament is holding back democrats' hopes

Germans in lather over soap star's racist slur

Germany's leading entertainer was last night preparing to fly to Hollywood to apologise for racist remarks that have drawn a curtain on his career.

Harald Juhnke, 67-year-old singer and soap opera star, would be clearing up a "misunderstanding" with a black

security guard working at Sun-set Boulevard's Mondrian Hotel, according to his agent. The source of this misunderstanding lies in a brief conversation with a guard named Bob

Farrell, shortly after the actor assaulted a female hotel guest. Though Juhnke's speech was rather slurred, owing to the large quantity of vodka he had consumed, onlookers including

the actor's son clearly heard him address Mr Ferrell in English with: "You filthy nigger".
"Hitler was right." he added for good measure. The likes of you

should have been gassed."
The slur, which Juhnke first claimed not to have remembered and later denied, has whipped up a storm of protest in Germany, with employers rushing to terminate their con-

lic television stations and the private channel Premiere have cancelled shows starring him. A computer retailer pulled the plug on its advertising campaign

featuring Juhnke. The country's biggest star is facing bankruptcy. The advertising contract was worth 1.5m German marks. The canned television serial Clinic under the from other politicians, includ-

Palms, to be shot in the Caribbean, would have netted him DM300,000. Also gone are show appearances worth DM250,000, and galas and concerts at DM50,000 a throw.

"Such statements are unacceptable from a German," the spokesman of the right-wing Christian Social Union said. There have been rejoinders ing two deputy speakers of the

Bundestag.

Juhnke bad been thrown out of the hotel bar when he was dotained by the guard while chas-

ing a woman through the lobby.

Drunk or not, his racist remarks are punishable by a jail term of up to five years in Germany. Prosecutors in his home town, Berlin, have already

significant shorts

Crashed plane held rebels, Zaire claims

A Ugandan plane taking troops to eastern Zaire crashed inside the Zairean border, a defence official in Kinshasa said. It came down on Monday in the Ruwonzori mountain area; Zairean troops captured the survivors. There was no independent confirmation of the report. Meanwhile, the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, presided over a parade of 1,000 new troops, signalling the rapid expansion of his insurgent force, More than 10,000 residents turned out in Ruksun to see the 1,200 recruits in US style uniforms. Bukavu to see the 1,200 recruits in US-style uniforms, wellington boots and AK-47s. wellington boots and AK-47s.

Diplomats bag coke shipment

Peruvian police are investigating smugglers who used a diplomatic bag to send 2lb of cocaine to the Peruvian mission at the UN. Diplomats in New York found the package, which was addressed to a Peruvian civil servant in the city, and came from an ex-employee of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry.

Britons wounded in Ethiopia

Two people were killed and nine wounded, including four tourists, when a grenade exploded in a hotel in the east Ethiopian town of Harar. The dead were not identified; the wounded included two Britons, a French woman and a German, sources said.

Reuter — Addis Ababa

French focus on immigrant law

Film directors urged the French to disobey their tough anti-immigration laws and challenged the anthorities to prosecute them for breaking them. "We are guilty... of putting up illegal foreign residents recently... We request being probed and put on trial," the 59 directors said in a statement in Le Monde. They were protesting at a law requiring citizens to report the arrival and departure of foreigners staying at their home.

Reuter - Paris.

For the love of humanity

The former minister Bernard Kouchner, founder of Médecins sans Frontières, said he was quitting French politics and going to Sudan to care for the destitute. Embittered after failing to find a constituency for next year's election, Mr Kouchner said he would return to his first career of humanitarian medicine.

EU passes up on London

The chairman of the group negotiating a new European Union treaty said he accepted that no British government would lift passport controls; London's EU partners would have to go it alone, the Dutch European Affairs Minister, Michiel Parijn, claimed.

Israelis let women go free

Israel began releasing 31 Palestinian women, keeping a pledge made in peace talks with the Palestinians. Five women prisoners were freed bours after the releases were expected to begin at noon yesterday.

High-fivers come down to earth

The US Air Force suspended all training flights over the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast after two new reports of close encounters between F-16s and commercial aircraft in the area, hringing to four the number of incidents over a three-day period last week.

AP - Washington

Gem of a wildlife deal

with the World Wide Fund for Nature to protect Arctic lakes and forests in a quarter of its territory. The Swiss-based Fund will allocate \$350,000 (£218,000) to pay for conservation projects.

Aznavour on song

Charles Aznavour won best male vocal at France's Victoires de la Musique awards, in a broadcast tane-delayed to avoid interference by stagehands angered by cutbacks in unemployment insurance.

Angola peace-force warning

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, recommended that the Security Council extend the peace-keeping mis in Angola by only one month if the Angolans fail to form government by the end of February. The mandate for the 6,000-member UN force, the largest peace-keeping mission. expires on 28 February.

AP - New

Current crisis in view

The Tretyakov Gallery, home of the world's greatest collection of Russian art, is unable to pay its bills and could find its electricity switched off for non-payment. director said. "There is that danger, yes, there is that danger," said Valentin Rodionov. Reuter - Mo

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Andrew Gumbel

One day after running the police out of town in pitched street battles, the furious citizens of Vlora, Albania's second city, set fire to the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Party yesterday. They chanted slogans accusing the government of murder as they joined the fu-neral cortege of a man shot

dead during the riots. As they walked across town behind the coffin which carried Artur Rustemi, 33, a vegetable store owner who had piled hun-dreds of dollars into a local "pyramid" investment scheme. as many as 40,000 mourners shouted: "The police killed him! The government killed

The anger of the population seemed unabated by the terrifying escalation of violence, which turned the city centre into or illegal immigrants, and the a smouldering wreck on Monday, or by the threat to impose of a state of emergency on the area. Deputies were still de-

parliament in the Albanian capital, Tirana.

hating the issue last night in

collapse of the local pyramid company, Gjallica, last week, involving the estimated loss of more than £300m, has robbed Viora of much of its accumulated wealth.

The government has failed to Vlora bas been badly hit by the failure of many of Albania's convince the country that it had no part in the pyramid schemes so-called pyramid schemes - and has maintained control in pseudo-banks that offer unre- most areas through sheer inalistically high rates of interest timidation, involving armed - because the amount of mon- and plainclothes police, mass arey at stake there is higher than rests and random beatings.

The protesters in Vlora have Tirana journalist who did not ambitions to launch a "march on Tirana", joining forces with demonstrators in other towns lying on Albania's main southnorth road, such as Fier, Lushnje and Kavaja. So far that ambition has been

thwarted, because army units have taken up positions in the hills around the city and on the main roads, but it could still become reality.

"It seems an impossible plan, but you have to remember that these are people who in the past Greece on foot," said one

wish to be named.

The crisis can only get worse, as it is probably a matter of days, or weeks at the most, before the largest of the pyramid schemes, holding the life-savings of hundreds of thousands of people, crumbles in turn.

The opposition, despite the constant harassment and physical attacks on its leaders, has demanded a cross-party dia-logue and the establishment of a national unity government. Significantly, that proposal has met with some sympathy even in government circles. There are

power base of President Sali Berisha and his Prime Masser, Aleksander Meksi

Aleksander Meksi.

Bashkim Koplika, a termer deputy prime minister and the of the parliamentary finance committee, has joined the calls for the government to resign.

There also appears to be a growing split between President Berisha and Mr Meksi, with Berisha and Mr Meksi, with

each hoping to save his ordiskin by hlaming the other for the

The foreign commutally, meanwhile, is hoping that the crisis can be resolved without a full-scale breakdown of public order. Diplomats are starting to consider the possibility of 2 transitional period, followed by new parliamentary elections.

Radicals try to delay Serbian elections bill

Belgrade (Reuter/AP) - Serbia's parliament met in extraordinary session yesterday to consider a hill reinstating op-position victories in municipal elections last November, but ultra-nationalists scemed determined to delay its passage. Opposition politicians, mean-

while, vowed to keep up the pressure on the authoritarian

president, Slobodan Milosevic.

by continuing their pro-democ-

Keeping up the pressure on President Milosevic for more democratic change, Belgrade students rallied and then marched to the parliament gestion that those inside par-liament had none.

The parliament approved the naming of Radmila Milen-

tijevic as the new Information

building where they placed a opposition buge artificial brain - a sug-

racy rallies in Belgrade's streets. Minister, and some other Keeping up the pressure on changes in the cabinet. A hardliner who has supported Mr Milosevic's nationalist policies in the past, Mrs Milentijevic has been sharply criticised by the

The ministers of justice and interior, whose firing was de-manded by the opposition, were not among the seven ministers dismissed. However, in what appeared to be a small concession

to protesting students, the minister of education was removed. Mr Milosevic's Socialists had annulled opposition victories in 14 towns and cities on grounds of "irregularities". The action

prompted three months of huge protests and attracted strident international criticism. But a week ago the president suddenly announced he was asking parliament to approve a bill recognising the opposition gains.

The three-party opposition Za-jedno (Together) coalition saw the move as a climbdown and a triumphal outcome of protests in Belgrade and other cities. Meanwhile, on Saturday Madeleine Albright, the Unit-

ed States Secretary of State, issued a personal appeal to Mr Milosevic, urging him to ensure the disputed election results were reinstated and to open a dialogue with his opponents.



open dialogue with opponents

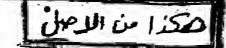
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THE INDEPENDENT • WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1997

City hall against the world: Local governments confront nation-states, corporations and trade blocs

Boston takes on EU over Burma trade

The US state of Massachusetts has pitted itself against both Japan and the European Union in a highly unusual international trade dispute. It has exercised what amounts to its own foreign policy by boy-cotting firms doing business with Burma, in protest at that

regime's human rights abuses. The row has reached a new pitch after the delivery of a letter this week to the EU by members of the Massachusetts delegation to the United States Congress. The letter, similar to one sent last week to Japan, chastises the EU for lodging a complaint about the boycon with the Clinton administration.

The boycott was signed into law last August by the governor of Massachusetts, William Weld. Conceived as a sanctions measure against the military junta in Burma, it forbids the state from doing business with companies with interests in that country, or choosing them

Behind the dispute is concern about the implications of individual states and cities passing laws with international trading consequences over which Washington has no infinence. Nor is the alarm confined to foreign companies and governments. Also raising the red flag recently was a spokesman for General

Electric. "I have a basic prob-

lem with 50 different states do-

ing things as if they were the State Department," he said. While the state is alone in having such a law, 10 US cities, including San Francisco, have passed selective procurement laws designed to punish companies with operations in Burma. Among companies that have been moved to withdraw from Burma as a result are Apple Computer, which feared losing a contract with the Mass-

achusetts school system. The EU and Japan have no-tified the State Department that they consider the Massachusetts provisions illegal. They say it could be the subject of official complaints to the World Trade

EU, Ericsson of Sweden was recently persuaded to withdraw from the bidding for an emergency radio system contract in San Francisco because of its

Burma links.

men, said the measure is "a breach of US international obligations and as such could have damaging effect on bilat-eral EU-US relations". Among those angered by the reaction is the Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank. "I particularly resent both the EU

and Japan trying to interfere with Massachusetts, particu-

The European Union Am-

bassador to the US, Hugo Pae-

larly since we pay for their de-fence," he remarked. London (Reuter) — Poinical repression and human rights violations in Burma last year reached their highest levels since the violent state suppression of a popular uprising at the end of the 1980s, Amnesty International said. Amnesty urged the international community to redouble pressure on the



Burmese authorities to improve their human rights record.

Burmese forced labour: Such flagrant rights abuses have angered Massachusetts

Tax battles stir up rebellion in the regions

Elizabeth Nash Madrid Andrew Gumbel Rome Sarah Helm Brussels

Taxatioo is fast becoming the most important battleground in the fight by Europe's independently-minded regions for greater autonomy.

But, whereas in Scotland the debate has centred on the right of a new Scottish assembly to raise taxes above levels in the rest of Britain, in Spain, Belgium and Italy the position is reversed: the Basques, Flemish and Northern League want to reduce the regions might get the same idea. burden of taxation.

than in the rest of Spain - from 35 to 32.5 per cent. Its aim is to attract more investment to the region and offset the damaging effects of terrorism and industrial decline.

But Madrid says the Basques have no right to impose the lower rate and in September flung down a court challenge to the Basque government. The national government fears that the incentive offers too tempting a sweetener for companies and that other regions will be put at a disadvantage. It also fears that other autonomous national spending on defence, foreign affairs and the monarchy. The Basque government takes the

view that it is up to them how they raise that sum. "What we gather in tax-es doesn't affect how much we pay the state," said the Basque Prime Minister, Jose Antonio Ardanza, recently. The signs are that the Basque incentives are working. The British-

tancy group moved its Spanish base from Madrid to oear Bilbao last year, principally for tax reasons, they said, and others are following. The A conflict is stimmering between amount of tax remitted to Madrid, government a concession to collect Madrid and the Basque country over which remains, in accordance with a taxes on petrol, tobacco and alcohol. wn up after Fran-

but this time over income tax, in a formula which the Catalan leader Jordi Pujol seeks to generalise through-out Spain. Under a deal struck between the ruling Catalan nationalists and the minority government in Madrid, regions will retain a third of income tax raised within their terri-

tory; this clearly benefits the richer regions like Catalonia. In the previbased Coopers & Lybrand accounous setup, the regions had to apply to Madrid for repayment of their sha Similar patterns are repeated in Italy and Belgium, both countries experi-encing strong centrifugal forces. The regional government of Flanders has already won far-reaching autonomy within the Belgian federal system, and

The Flemish leaders complain that Flanders, a relatively prosperous region of Belgium, is currently having to dish out vast sums to help pay the social security bills of the more impoverished French-speakers in southern Wallonia, where unemployment is as high as 20 per cent in some areas. If it were not for the problems of Wallonia, Belgium would have no problem meeting the Maastricht criteria

for monetary union, say the Flemish. In Italy, the Northern League has been calling for a regionally-based tax system so that money earned in the north is not syphoned off by the "thieves in Rome" and redistributed to a centre and south that the 's exponen erriment last year cut to a rate lower co's death, at 6.24 per cent of Spain's greater control over its tax revenue, cial security from the central state. irrefrievably backward and corrupt. precisely the point.

The reason why taxes have become an issue is partly that the Basque country, Flanders and northern Italy are all wealthier regions thao average for their states. Taxation has historically aimed at redistribution of income to the lower-paid but also to the poorer areas, in part to assure the very state cohesion which is questioned by the separatists and by advocates of greater autonomy

In Belgium, opponents of decentralisation argue that granting Flanders autonomy over tax and social security would hit at the heart of the state, increasing the possibility that Belgium itself might one day break up. Yet that - for the more radically

A global view from the ethnic back yard

The combination of local government and foreign policy sounds odd, if not risible. In Britain it summons up memories of nuclear-free zones and concerts for Nicaragua - more

about gesture than reality, even if the gestures were heartfelt. But as the two examples which we present today show, local - that is in say, non-national - government is at the cutting edge of politics.

To an extent, this is a result of the revival of ethnic nationalism, which feeds moves for autonomy, as in Flanders, the Basque country or Catalooia. But there is more to it than that, as the case of Boston in Brussels shows. Local government is taking up arms: to defend itself in a global economy; to assert the values which citizens feel their national governments ig-nore; and to follow that old nos-trum of the Green movement: Think Global, Act Local.

Closer to home, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of England are taking the "Westminster Bypass", a the "Westminster Bypass", a route that lies through Brussels. That means oegotiating for funds, but also lobbying for or against particular policies.

Central government is insufficiently flexible to represent

regional views. This is not just a matter of bumptions local officials getting above themselves, it is the crumbling of the very idea of "national interest."

Traditional "high" foreign policy - military and security matters - remains the preserve of nation states. But "low" policy issues - trade, the environment, communications and so on - are increasingly taking centre stage. When guns are at stake, then Britton or Bremen might not have much to say. When it's butter, then they do.

In this new world, city hall and corporations clash and cooperate with states and international organisations. It makes the world a much more complicated, unpredictable and multi-dimensional place.

Andrew Marshall

Home alone too.



Parents hate to leave their young children show. eiten for a second. Some parents have no choice but in sim

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Meet Jill.

Everyone seems to offer advice on saving and investing. So Jill decided to get some advice she could trust.

Recently, Jill came into an inheritance - not a tortune, but not a sum to be sniffed at eithe Jill's one problem, however, was what was the best thing to do with it. In terms of advice, her friends, her relatives and especially he neighbour, have made sure that Jill's had suggestions coming out of her ears. That's why Jill arranged a meeting with a Midland Financial Planning Manager. She knew she'd get all the options in plain English. But the best thing was, according to Jill, that he didn't want her to sign anything. He just gave her, what Jifl agreed, were some excellent suggestions and all the time in the world to think them over.





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Enter the dragon: Shanghai comeback challenges financial might of Hong Kong

Shanghai

On Shanghai's waterfront Bund, once the financial centre nf Asia, the flagships of old wealth find it politically acceptable again to trade on former glories. The Peace Hotel, known as the Cathay Hotel when Noël Coward stayed and penned Private Lives, has turned its top floor into an international bankers' club, a place specially used for social contact and communications between celebrities of financial circles". As its regulations announce, "sloppily dressed" people are nnt welcome.

In Shanghai, the (smartly dressed) international banker is again a creature to he welcomed. The city has set amhitious targets to reclaim some of the stature of its Thirties hey-

day. "We have worked out a as a cash cow by the communist three-phase action plan," said Wang Zhan, director of the government's Development Research Centre: to be China's national financial centre before 2000, Asia's regional financial hub by 2005, and a global financial centre in 2010. Where, then, does that leave

Hong Kong? Is the "dragon's head" of the Yangtze River, as Shanghai is officially described, set to eclipse Hong Kong after sovereignty reverts to China? "By 2010, I think Shanghai will he a city that stands out as a regional financial centre, on a par with Hong Kong if not ahead," said Douglas Red, general man-ager of the Shanghai branch of the merchant hank, ING.

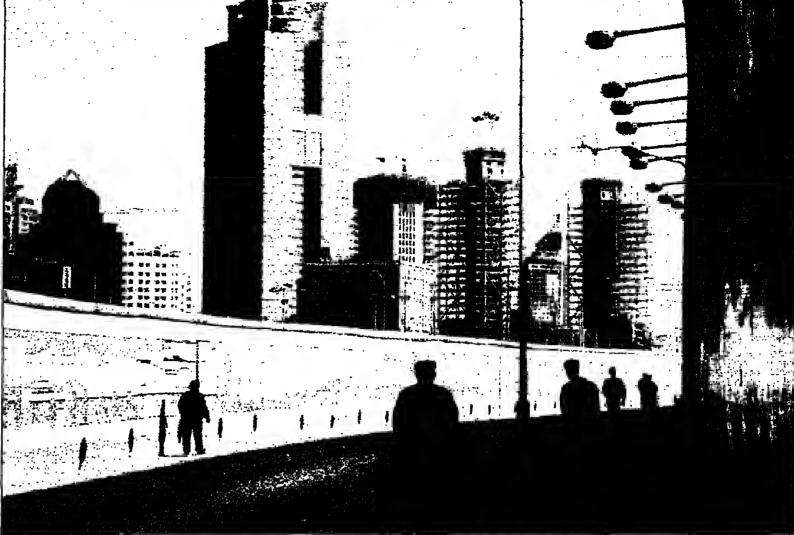
By Chinese standards, modern Shanghai is a late starter. For decades, the city was used

government and between 1949 and 1983 remitted 87 per cent of its revenues to Peking. After market reform was launched in 1978, Shanghai's relative economic status declined sharply as Peking instead promoted an

The turning point for Shang-hai was 18 April 1990, when the central government launched the Pudong district, across the river from the Bund, as China's future financial centre.

The results, as Mr Red said have been "startling". "In 1990, there was very little in the way of foreign investment and foreign presence in Shanghai. [Today] the foreign community is growing dramatically, the infrastructure has developed in a way which I would say is the envy of most metropolitan areas in China, and the growth

The physical transformation has been probably the fastest of any city on earth. Annual promised overseas investment in Shanghai has surpassed \$10bn (£6bn) a year for the past three years and in Pudong there are more than 4,000 foreign-funded financial and manufacturing companies. There is enough office space to satisfy all foreseeable demand and rents have slumped. Even so, this year, another 3 million square feet will become available in Pudong alone, with 140 high-rise huildings under construction.



New business: The district of Pudong in Shanghai which is poised to rival Hong Kong as a financial centre

Hong Kong, while fearing competition, also has a vested interest in Shanghai's future. It is the biggest investor in Shanghai, and accounts for more than 40 per cent of foreign funds promised for Pudong. Business links are strong; many Hong Kong moguls, including the future chicf executive Tung Chee-hwa, are displaced Shanghainese, whose families fled when the Communists took control in 1949.

The question is whether - and when - Shangbai's revival will start to undermine Hong Kong.

natural deep-water port, means that it handles nearly half of Chi-na's exports; it will take years of river-dredging before Shanghai is able to handle the next generation of container ships.

As a financial centre, even Chinese officials for the time being play down Shanghar's threat to Hong Kong, Li Qian, the spokeswoman at the Shanghai Stock Exchange, defines the future relationship as "cooperation and competition". The onus is on Shanghai to implement further reform. At the moment, the total value of

Kong stock market is seven times the Shanghai market, and most of the shares in China are still "A" shares which can be purchased only by Chinese. Similarly, there are already 44

foreign branches of international financial institutions in Shanghai. But it is only very recently, and after agreeing to put branches in Pudong, that a handful of foreign banks has been given permission to conduct limited ocal-currency husiness. Many of Shanghai's harriers -

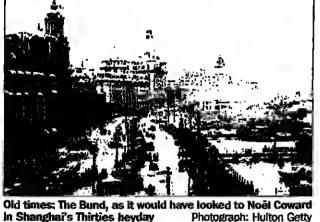
including the prerequisite of a freely convertible currency can be solved by central gov-

ernment edict, and probably will be over the next few years. But other requirements of a world financial centre are less tangible, such as a free press, a transparent regulatory and legal system, low corruption, and an ease of entry for foreign players. By all these counts, Hong Kong is in a different world to Shanghai. The question, after I July this year, when the British colony reverts to China, is whether these relative advantages will be croded because of greater mainland in-

fluence in Hong Kong. By Mr Wang's dates, the first phase of Shanghai's renaissance

is on target. His second goal is more of a challenge; Hong Kong is the bridge for international finance into China and will remain so until foreign banks see Shanghai as a place to out their Greater China or East Asia regional headquarters:

Some time in the next centur that is likely to happen. But there are those who think that Shanghai's renaissance does not have to be at Hong Kong's emense. At the Pudong New Area Administration Office, Fan Zonglin said: "China is very hig, so two business centres



In Shanghai's Thirties heyday

Executions blamed for ethnic riots

Chris Bird Reuters

Almaty - The leader of an exiled nationalist Uighur group in Kazakhstan said yesterday that riots in China's predominantly Muslim north-west were sparked by the execution of 30 Uighurs by the Chinese au-thorities last week.

"We have heard that 30 people, Uighurs, were executed by a firing squad," Yusupbek Mukhlisi, leader of the United National Revolutionary Front of East Turkestan, said in the

He said that the public executions were carried out in the town of Yining, about 50 kilo-metres (30 miles) from the Kazakh border in China's north-western Xinjiang province, last Friday.

"When the parents and families saw this, they lost their patience," said Mr Mukhlisi. He said that the executions fell on the fifth anniversary of the decision made by some Uighur separatist groups to use violence in secure independence from

Peking.
Chinese sources say 10 peo-ple were killed and about 100 wounded in the resulting riots by pro-separatist Uighurs. How-ever, Mr Mukhlisi said the ca-sualties were higher, with 25 Uighurs and 55 Chinese soldiers killed in the violence.

Chinese residents in Yining, called Kuldzha by the Uighurs. said the town had been sealed off by Chinese police and that a curfew was in place following

Mr Mukhlisi said hundreds of Uighurs had been arrested af-

ter the rioting. "They have run out of room at the prisons and are putting people in cellars," Information from the remote region is difficult to veri-

had been cut, and most information was reaching Almaty from Uighur travellers.

A Chinese official source in Almaty said the unrest was to be expected. "It is a multi-eth-

fy. Mukhlisi said telephone ines to and from Kazakhstan

nic region so it doesn't surprise me," said the source. The region is home to ethnic Kazakhs and Kyrgyz as well as Uighurs and Han Chinese. "The [Uighur] separatists are stirring this up," the source

Local authorities have played down the riot, describing it as a small incident started by "foreign hostile forces".

The Xinjiang authorities last year cracked down on the Uighur separatists, Turkic-speaking Muslims who make up the majority of the region's pop-ulation, after a series of violent clashes, bombings and assassination attempts on officials and Muslim leaders regarded as pro-Peking.
Peking also imposed tougher

border controls along the vast region of mountains and desert, saying it wanted to halt the smuggling of arms from the neighbouring central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzsian and Tajikistan.

Freedom petition for jailed Wang

Mure Dickie

Peking — The family of the ailed Chinese dissident Wang Dan is planning to petition a Peking court to overturn his 11-year jail sentence for plotting to overthrow the government, the former student leader's

mother said yesterday: The petition would he a mainly symbolic gesture to the legal authorities that last year convicted Wang in a trial lasting only four hours, said his mother Wang Lingyun.

There is no optimism over the result," she said in a telephone interview. "This is an expression of our attitude."

Wang's family had already prepared documents for the petition, which they expected to submit to the Peking Higher

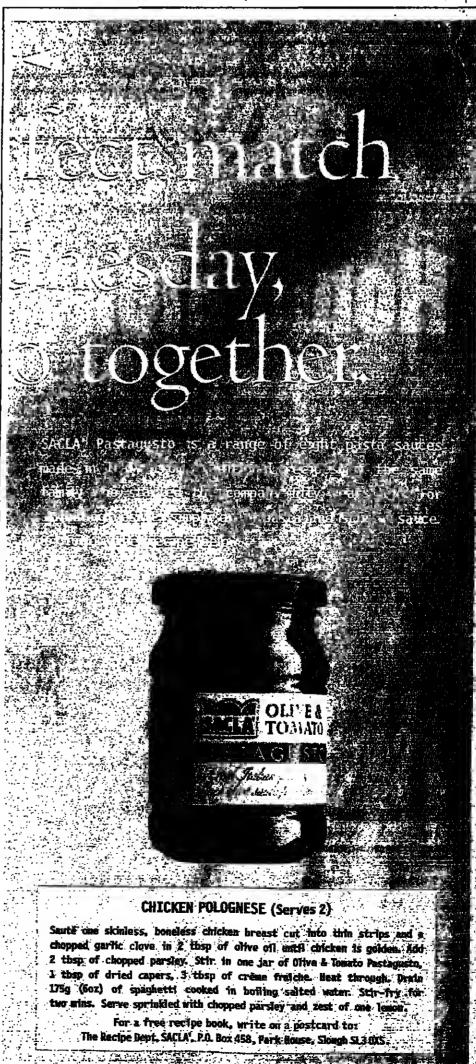
People's Court later this month. she said.

"In accordance with the legal system, after Wang Dan's apneal, he himself or his family are allowed to submit a petition. said the 61-year-old museum researcher, who helped to defend her son during his trial last year.

"I've written a first draft hut haven't sent it yet," she said. "I need to tidy it up before submitting it to the court."

Chinese legal experts say that submitting petitions to overturn verdicts which have already survived an appeal have almost no chance of succeeding in forcing a retrial.

Wang Dan was one of the leaders of the pro-democracy student protests of 1989 that were crushed by the Chinese army with heavy loss of life. He was sentenced last October.



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Full marks for consensus on education

صكنا من الاعل

ere is Question One in the new, revised Advanced (Subsidiary) Level examination in education. Which post war prime minister first used the phrase "secret garden" to describe the curriculum and the way it is taught in school classrooms? Was it - we offer this multiple-choice format to those whose attention may have been slipping during the recent phoney war between Government and Opposition - a) John Major, b) Alec Dou-glas-Home or c) James Callaghan? It is true that Home was a great horticulturist but the correct answer is Labour prime minister Callaghan, who in a speech at Nuffield College in the Seventies launched a Great Debate on education and - incidentally - spelled the end of an era for autonomous local education authorities. Eleven years on, his secret garden has not just been opened to visitors but is busily being trampled upon by inspectors, parents and politicians.

A - THE INDEPEND

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BOI TOO mam.

Yesterday Prime Minister Major reached out for the same phrase. To him it served as another way of saying that councils (by which he naturally means Labour-controlled councils) and teachers are far too close. But that partisan usage misses the point. The degree of convergence between the parties on education during the past decade has been quite extraordinary and yesterday's flurry of announcements by the Prime Minister, Education Secretary, their shadows, and Lib-eral Democrats, served to underline that fact. On schools most of us now agree. In fact, the base consensus on

education is a little unnerving.
Since Callaghan, actual policy has of course been delivered by the Tories. Keith Joseph reformed examinations at 16-plus by merging the General Cer-tificate of Education and the General Certificate of Secondary Education, so fulfilling an old Labour wish. Kenneth Baker inaugurated the national cur-riculum which - once the rhetoric and the party folderols had been stripped aside - answered a long-standing Labour aspiration. So yesterday turned into an exhibi-

tion of mutual elothes stealing. "Kleptomaniac", the Prime Minister cried as he dipped deep into the mixed bag of policies assembled in recent months by David Blunkett for Labour. On testing, the measurement of per-formance, the use of inspection, schools management, parent choice ... if you look at what they are actually doing or promising to do, rather than listen to the soundbites, the differences of principle fade away.

What differences persist are most obviously on questions of organisation, several tiers away from the classroom. Labour tends to favour residual council controls, which is of course partly a reflection of the fact it runs so many. The Conservatives, once the party of



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the little platoons and local diversity, these days favours central control with a high degree of individual school autonomy. But even here the real differences between the parties are hard to spot. Both would send in hit-teams of inspectors to run underperforming schools, and to bring inadequate local authorities up to standard. Labour would publish information on attainment by children locally, on the practical grounds that the performance of children in schools halfway across the country is largely irrelevant to the choices parents have before them. But Labour also has no objection in prin-

ciple to collecting data nationally, for example through the Audit Commission. Some parents send their children across boundaries and need to have access to data provided out of area; the sensible solution is to ensure that data is provided in standard formuts which makes it collectible and collatable by central agencies (including newspapers). The issue of national versus local league tables is thus a red herring: the point is that no one, including most sensible teachers, dissents from the principle of comparison.

A twist was added yesterday with the suggestion that the appraisal of teach-

ers should be linked with their performance as measured by their pupils' performance. Once this would have brought the roof down, with Labour and the trade unions joined in perni-cious opposition to progress. No longer. The question becomes one of detail and practicality: do tests at seven, 11 and 14 provide enough information; do they assist heads in getting the measure of underperforming staff." Often, it is true, information sounds like a stick with which to beat education's professionals. Understandably, they must feel they are being required to carry many of the burdens of change and improvement - the political class wills the ends of educational improvement but decrees it can be had without increased means. Put that more simply, there has recently been a lot of stick

Similarly Gillian Shephard's pronouncements yesterday on A-levels raised hardly a flutter from her Labour shadow. He might have said (we would say, ought) that an opportunity for rad-ical reorganisation of 18-plus has been squandered. What Mrs Shephard offered was rationalisation of the examination boards. Fine: who is going to dissent from that proposition, other than those schools which have lately and blatantly been playing the field. Did David Blunkett object to Mrs Shephard's plans? How could be. Perhaps, in office, he will pick up the

and not much carrot.

threads left dangling from Sir Ros Dearing's report. Then it will be hi Shadow's turn to mouth objection while getting on with agreeing.

Noting and applauding the conver gence of the parties' education think ing may offend those who think the bes policy is born in dissension. Fortunatel they are wrong: the fact that the polit ical class is pretty much of one mind or the way forward, and that their view largely aligns with the wishes of parents should be an occasion for celebration

The Spice Girls for ever?

How long will the Spice Girls last' The answer is for ever. Official Their collected works will henceforth be statutorily kept for future generation along with every other CD released in Britain, every film, every TV programme and every CD-Rom, under new proposals. With the electronic information explosion, says the Government, it is no longer sufficient to keep books in per petuity in the British Library. For those of us who lament the BBC failing to pre serve the early Peter Cook and Dudley Moore and other classics, there is indeet a logic to storing some true treasures But for the rest - shouldn't popular cul-ture be as perishable as possible?

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

ZERO BUDGET, HOT AIR BLAST OFF!

Supertankers heading for

Sir. The first anniversary of the Sea Empress disaster falls on 15 February. Little progress has been

The Sea Empress ran on to rocks because, like all tankers of its size, it stop, into coastal waters invites ister. Expecting tugs to pull

Oil tanker design, driven by evaded all effective regulation since the Second World War. None of the disaster inquiries has questioned the fundamental flaws in these monstrous ships. Either because they were confidential (Sea Empress), ill-composed (Bruer) or charged with restricted terms of reference (Ecron Valdez), none of the inquiries addressed the fundamental questions of tanker design and tanker size.

The latest perverse decision by

the British government to bush up the Sea Empress disaster within an in-house inquiry ensures that further such catastrophes will occur, and can only fuel speculation that they already believe themselves to be legally and financially responsible for what occurred in Milford Haven that night 12 months ago.

Since the British government isn't going to come clean, we must lobby Neil Kinnock, the EU Commissioner for Transport, to hold a proper open inquiry, not only into the Sea Empress, but into the general question of .

pollution incident (more than 10,000 tonnes of oil spilled) during their lives (US National Academy of Science figure).
Professor MICHAEL DISNEY MATHIAS DISNEY MSc

Why women need voting reform

Sir. We welcome any moves to make the selection procedures for prospective parliamentary candidates more open to women ("Role-play to give women that vital push for Parliament", 11 February). However, one of the main barriers to selection of women remains our electoral system:

It is no accident that countries with a high proportion of women MPs, such as Sweden with over 40 per cent or Norway with 39 per cent, use a different electoral system. Under the UK system, selection committees have to choose one candidate. In safe seats they have probably not had to make a decision like this for 20 to 30 years. Perhaps not surprisingly, they often play safe, trying to pick someone as much like their last MP as possible, only younger, and end up seeing another white man.

In contrast, under electoral systems with more than one candidate per constituency it makes sense for local parties to present a balanced state, including candidates from a range of backgrounds, women as well as

Ster-fry

the rocks

was dangerously mmanoeuvrable and far too massive to be towed out of danger by any rugs in the world. Bringing ships which take many minutes to turn, and many miles to them out of danger ensures that the disasters will become catastrophes.

supertanker safety.
Between 30 and 60 per cent of all supertankers cause a devastating

(Remote Sensing Unit, University College London) London SW4

Lessons on the Holocaust

Fawcett Society

London EC2

Sir: Of course it is foolish to make denying the Holocaust a criminal offence (Letters, 4, 7, 10 February). But anyone who says that a wellattested historical event did not take place is clearly unfitted to teach at any level, from school to university. He or she would also lack the balanced understanding needed by those who work for central or local government. Clearly what is needed is some measure to exclude those who deny that the Holocaust hippened from work to which their unitalanced minds are unsuited.

HENEST RUDO

> Sir I am appalled at the generalisation made by Becky Johns ("Muslims who deny Holocanst", Letters, 7 February) about young Muslims. The experience of your writer is limited to those students who study English as a second language - a very small minority of young Muslims. I am a father of two universityeducated Muslim children and

have also worked with many young men, to appeal to all sections of the electorate. It also becomes harder Muslims through my association with a local community in Harrow. I can say that it is mischievous to o justify selecting mainly men. We might just believe that any individual candidate selected at the suggest that these young Muslims deny the Holocaust or will gloat at moment was the best person for the job, but if we were to be presented the truth of it. They may be indifferent to events that happened more than 50 years ago which have with a list containing hardly any women, and even fewer black or Asian candidates, the not affected them. discrimination would appear far UZAIR M RIZKI more obvious. MARY-ANN STEPHENSON Pinner, Middlesex

Water utilities paid their way Sir: How nice to receive a letter

from Mr Major on the dangers of the "windfall tax". However, there is one sentence in his letter I find baffling. He says:

"Companies which used to devour buge subsidies from the taxpayer now pay large amounts of tax to the Enchequer." Which companies is he referring to? I know a little bit about the water

industry, and no subsidy was paid to the old water authorities. They borrowed, of course, to fund capital expenditure (just as the privatised companies do) and mainly from the National Loans Fund, but a commercial rate of interest was charged by the NLF and eventually recovered from the customers. The same is true, I believe, of the other

The only nationalised industries which "devoured" any significant subsidies were rail (nothing's changed there) and coal (which has been virtually shut down and

certainly isn't "paying large amounts of tax").
DAVID GADBURY East Grinstead, Sussex

Misguided liberal gloss on the Bible

Sir: Shock! Horror! According to the Rev Kenneth Wilson's letter (8 February), 200 years of biblical scholarship has discovered that there are cultural aspects to the

But that has always been

recognised by theologians. God spoke in particular cultures at particular times. But what He spoke m and through those cultures was culture-transcending truth. Mr Wilson seems to think that somehow we in the 20th century no longer have cultural baggage. We can look down our noses at the poor culture-bound writers of the Bible. But his letter is full of cultural assumptions-and-supernaturalism

If Mr Wilson finds the teachings of the Bible on everything from a transcendent God and the substitutionary death of Christ to family relationships so repugnant, why does he not do the decent thing, renounce his ordination vows and stop calling himself a Christian? Perhaps the Rationalist Press Association would give him a job. But I doubt he will do that. because "Liberal Christianity" is intellectually dishonest. The Rev GUY A DAVIES Stalbridge, Dorset

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail; letters@independent.co.uk).
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

and feminism for example.

Self-reliance the key to defence

Sir. Paul Vallely ("How Blair can save billions on defence", 10 February) dismisses many capabilities of our armed forces as unnecessary, and makes several suggestions that can never be oractical.

Do we need tanks at all? Yes, we do, as, great though helicopters are, they cannot take and hold territory. They are needed to guard the armoured personnel carriers that carry our troops, and they are vulnerable to hand-held surface-toair missiles.

Tomahawks can never totally replace attack sircraft, as their unit cost makes that decision very uneconomic compared with an aircraft that can be re-used. We train and equip our forces for

high-intensity conflict because then they are prepared for all eventualities. Situations can change very quickly, and troops could go in intending to peace-keep and end up inside a major conflict. Then we would not have the time to run to the Americans for help, or persuade a European

By all means integrate Europe's defence industries, but we have to maintain a capability to conduct limited high-intensity warfare, in support of Nato, our European partners, or even for our own national interest. We cannot totally rely on other nations. KÉN O'NEILL London SW14

Disarmament London N7 My UN views

Chair, Campaign for Nuclear

taken seriously.

DAVID KNIGHT

Sir: Paul Vallely makes some

excellent points ("How Blair can save hillions on defence", 10

February), but unfortunately he repeats the fallacy that no savings can be made by axeing the Trident

nuclear weapon system. Even after

most of the building work is completed, Trident will continue to

cost huge amounts of money. Sir Ronald Mason (former Chief

Scientific Adviser at the Ministry of

Defence) estimates the total cost of

weapons take up more than 7 per cent of the defence budget and cost

Trident as £50km. British nuclear

over £1.5bn per year to maintain.

That's a bigger potential saving than withdrawing the Army from

A British defence review that

includes peither Trident nor Nato

can hardly be called strategic, or be

Sir: Your article "Europe urges Annan to reform the UN" (21 January) is doubly wrong. 1 certainly do not support the closing down of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development or of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, In fact, the exact opposite is the case. I believe that the functions these organisations carry out are of great importance and that both should be sustained in a reformed United Nations. JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH Administrator, United Nations Development Programme New York

Only the gullible pay to be frozen

Sir: The article "The cryonics game" (7 February) gives a misleading impression of the scientific basis of cryonics. Frankly, there isn't one.
To summarise comments by

scientists on the South African "breakthrough" as "tsk-tsk" is neither informative nor accurate, and it simply is not true that "the world is getting closer to the cryonics point of view".

The experiments to which the article refers emphatically have *not* demonstrated an effective method for the preservation of organs by deep freezing - in fact they take us no nearer to the cryonics goal than the failed experiments carried out by Audrey Smith, at the National Institute for Medical Research, in 1957. We now know much more about the reasons for their failure but that knowledge has yet to yield a significant advance in organ

preservation. Nor should readers forget that, even if the problems of deep-freezing living organs are solved. the cryonicists will have additional problems to contend with. Extending the technique from organs to whole people; restoring the dead to life; curing the diseases or injuries that lead to their death: and all with perfect restoration of memory and personality.

It really is not surprising that so very few people have signed up for cryonic suspension.

The true situation cannot be

better summarised than it was by Peter and Jean Medawar, who wrote in Aristotle to Zoos: "In our opinion, money invested to preserve human life in the deep freeze is money wasted, the sums involved being large enough to fulfil a punitive function as a self-imposed pantise function as self-in fine for gullibility and vanity. DAVID E PAGG, Medical Cryobiology Unit University of York

Greetings cards always delayed

Sir: I share Mervyn Benford's concern about the increasing inclination of the Post Office to ignore the first-class stamp and nake its own idiosyneratic judgements about when to deliver our mail (letter, 8 February). We have a daughter at school in

Newbury who telephones home most days, which enables us to keep an exact record of the arrival of items we post to her. Post people seem to think that

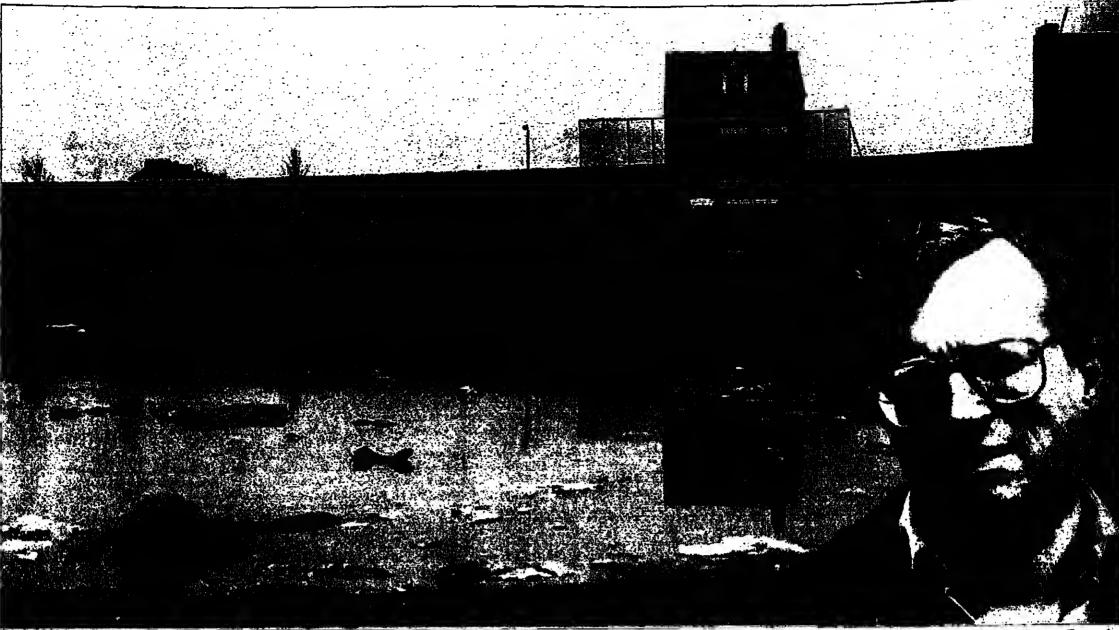
postcards must be frivolous - they cannot possibly contain any ungent message. So postcards sink to the bottom of the pile and always take two or three days. Anything that can easily be identified as a greetings card seems to be outomatically sifted out of the firstclass system. I have overcome the problem by disguising every card in a plain white business-like envelope - a ruse that is almost always Successful. DILYS BARRATT Maidenhead, Berkshire

Sir: I sympathise with Mr Benford's feelings. The time taken for a firstclass letter of normal size sent from my home in Northumberland to Westbury, Wiltshire was four days. The same applied in the reverse

direction. City-to-city first-class letters may be delivered the next day, but when it comes to rural, or semi-rural, areas - forget it! JHEWETT

Ponteland, Northumberland

Fisk in Ireland, Part 1



Belfast's 'peace' line, as high and distressing as any of the Beirut variety. Inset: Robert Fisk, Middle East correspondent, who reported from Belfast in the Seventies

Main photograph: Stephen Davisor/Pacemain

Back to Belfast

border? All the stations ed been recognisably Victoan, with their stone booking alls and arched brick windows id lacy wooden roofs. Dun-ik, the last station before te frontier, looked just like isburn, the last big station fore Belfast. Indeed, they ust have been designed by the me company, perhaps the ry same architect, in the days efore partition. But Dundalk ad heen identified in Irish as un Dealgan, while Lisburn uried no hint of its original

Robert Fisk, The

'ndependent's

ward-winning

war reporter, returns to Northern Ireland after

more than 20

years to find that it has

eerie parallels

with the

Middle East

The Middle East has sharpned my sense of the politics of ames. In Hebrew, Jerusalem Yerushelaim". In Arabic, it

"Al-Quds". Belfast would art of its history had not been ashed away. Ironically, it is a one keep to the left of the ain that alerts passengers to the border, a medieval fortress very bit as forbidding as the rusader castles that litter yria, Lebanon and what was nce Palestine, the 12th century minding us of the frootiers of

How strange is the effect of ie other side of a field to the number plates with their little Irish EU signs had vanished, to be replaced by vehicles with a familiar yellow British registration. Across on the Newry road, an advertisement announced the best dry-cleaners in Ireland

as seen on BBC". And high up on a hillside above the railway embankment, an iron stockade contained the descendants of the armies of Elizabeth I, their swords replaced by radio aerials and anti-missile screens, their presence reduced to this indefensible bit of the old Ireland. The rain was beating against The station signs now came in an odd, oblong typeface with-out capital letters, screwed on

to iron grills. I had forgotten the smell of Belfast, the cloak of invisible, wet smoke that wraps the city in winter. I had forgotten that despite its assumed Britishness, Northern Ireland boasted a Ruritanian currency of local fivers and £10 notes, each illustrated with the kind of ripening fields and cranes and tractors that I can find on the banknotes

the hundreds of miles and light years - that separate Westmin-ster from this avowedly British

city.

In a province in which the Unionists are supposed to represent the Tories - which they don't - and in which the Labour party does not field a single candidate, the Belfast Telegraph was advertising an "exclusive" interview with Tony Blair. "There is not a lot of trust around now ..." he is saying. "What is to he gained by one nore death and one more bombing? The answer is nothing ... If violence stops and trust and confidence can be built, then I think Northern Ire-

land can have a great future ..." "Can", "Think". It was lamentable. What will Tony Blair's approach to Northern Ireland be? "Bugger all," an old Protestant friend of mine from Derry replied, reading aloud another passage of Blairite wisdom in which the Labour leader declared that he was "not going to dictate what the terms of that

of any Arab natioo. And I had future might be" although it and Dublin is "in the south". not remembered the distance - would have to "be based on the centre of the known world. consent and agreement and respect for the very different traditions which coexist in the

province". "Bullshit," my friend said, "It will have to be based on British leadership and contempt for sectarianism, on a British prime minister with enough seats to ignore the Unionist party, and who'll tell the police to keep the rule of law and not cave in to Orangemen, and who'll stop stroking the IRA one day and call-

6 The RUC I'd forgotten men and soldiers slid British understood the Protespast the car tants and Cathwindow like olics of Northern Ireland - and how an old film? well Northern Ire-

landers comprehend the weaknesses of the little meo at back to the bad days." Westminster. Ask Protestants if they trust John Major and they will pronounce his name with the "J" of John heavily and contemptuously aspirated, along with the good-natured smile of the strong who know bow to deal with the pusillanimity of

their enemies 'We don't trust John Major," Ian Paisley declared to me. "He's made promises to us and he hasn't kept them." And I noticed that the good reverend also grinned when he mentioned Major's name, like a hungry man contemplating

Or dinner, as Northern Ire-landers call lunch - dinner heing "supper" in Belfast. Just as Britain is "across the water"

the centre of the known world being Belfast - just as Beirut or Damascus or Jerusalem or Hebron or Gaza are to their inhabitants.

Belfast has now been dressed in fancy clothes in keeping with its status as a semi-peaceful - or half-warlike - city; boutiques, new restaurants and clothing stores and bookshops, a revitalised theatrical and arts life. and a new lower ground floor of the Europa Hotel that makes it look like the front

> "Don't you like the city now?" asked the lady who used to safeguard my bank account in Donegali Place in the days when I was a Belfast correspondeut. "People don't want to go

This surprised me. The "bad his point, but slid a cassette days" are supposed to be back. But as David McKittrick, The Independent's Ireland correspondent, has put it, this is "half war". "Quarter war," I suggested to McKittrick -we have been old friends since the Seveoties, when I worked in Belfast for The Times, David for The Irish Times - after he offered to drive me round west Belfast. There were no security checks in town, I said. No barriers. No

soldiers. Where was the war? McKittrick has a soft, devastating sense of humour. Like many in Northern Ireland, he smiles after he has made a joke, not before. This can be disturbing. Wheo I asked where the war was, he was silent.

"This is where Divis was -do you recognise these houses?" We had turned left off the Falls Road. Of course, I've driven round these Catholic homes many times. "No, you haven't." McKittrick said. "They're all

They were. Smart terraces and semi-detached houses most built to the same dimensions as the slums they took the place of the Housing Executive dutifully replacing the familiar with the familiar - had taken the place of the squalor that I remembered. But when we turned a corner, the old B was there, two lonely RUC men in flak jackets with a line of British soldiers on both pavements, their rifle-sights caressing the contours of each house. the bright green and black camouflage making the old, cruel contrast with the grey estate. They slid past the car window like an old film, a television repeat of infinite wearmess and meaning. McKittrick had made

beneath the car radio. An English voice, public school, vowels enunciated, was speaking slowly and delibertely over a two-way radio. Two dead bodies are heing takeo to Altnagelvin Hospital," the voice said. The tape had been discovered by Chan-nel 4 when its crew were investigating Bloody Sunday, the shooting dead of 13 civil rights demonstrators by members of the 1st Battalion, the Parachute Regiment in Derry in

McKittrick let the cassette run on as we drove along the "peace" line, as high and as dis-tressing as any of the Beirut variety that lay along the Lebanese front lines between 1975 and 1990. From the radio comes a high-pitched whine and a voice - another British army officer - saying: "Photographers are taking pictures of a body in Chamberlain street."

The whine continues on the tane. "Helicopter." McKittrick mutters. And I understand. The voices are coming from a helicopter high over the Rossville Flats on Bloody Sunday, as clear now - 25 years

later - as they were on the day. McKittrick turns into Cupar Way and stops beside the cushigh, green-painted, running as far as the eye can see, shame-ful and sinister. And when I wind down my window, I hear, high above us, the whine of a real-time helicopter. Several thousand feet up, it circles and recircles this slum state, photographing and re-photographing the wasteland and garbage and the vehicles on the road and, no doubt, our car too. And an odd thought occurs to me, that this tiny machine has been flying for 25 years, that its haunting mosquito whine has never left the skies of Northern Ireland, that if I lived here - rather than amid the heat and flies of the Middle East - I could believe that nothing had changed since

Bloody Sunday. Like the Lebanese, the people of Belfast long ago developed an exaggerated sense of their own tragedy. The Lebanese foreign minister insisted to me in 1983 that if Lebanon was not given peace, it would be "the end of the known world". Palestinians have been given to claim that their plight is worse than that of the Jews in the European Holocaust. In just such a way,

IRA prisoners in the Eightles would claim that Long Resiscamp was "worse than Beisen". Only last month, the Northern Ireland Office was proposing to make a television advertisement suggesting that intimidation in Belfast could be compared to the persecution of Jews in prewar Germany. Nobody must be allowed to place events in

whii Scott

perspective.

In Ballymurphy, four young men in jeans watch our car suspiciously. "Social workers." McKittrick says, only glancing at me afterwards to see if

caught his irony.

The walls were painfully familiar. Welcome to the Loyalist Heartland of Ulster": "Live Free - Or Like a Freeman Die Not Like a Fenian Slave "Shankill Road No. Surrender" Wasn't there an "h" in

Shankill, Lask innocently? McKittrick re "But there's not usually a comma in the middle of No. Surrender'." Then he smiles quietly to himself.

In Lebanon, the graffin is more rhetorical, declarative. "Nasser - light, hrotherhood, unity," it says down the road from my Beirut home. "Support the resistance - crush Zionism." The Palestinians used to have a poster which proclaimed to its warriors that we shall stand in the last trench against the Zionist death wagon", a remark which made up in enthusiasm what it lacked passion. But in both countries, the real questions are the same. Who are these messages for? What is the purpose of the wall paintings of the Irish famine and King Billy? To preach to the converted? To reduce the complex to the simplistic? To avoid argument? Or to instruct us that hatred and fear and anger and a sense of. injustice have a greater integrity - and are buried deeper - than

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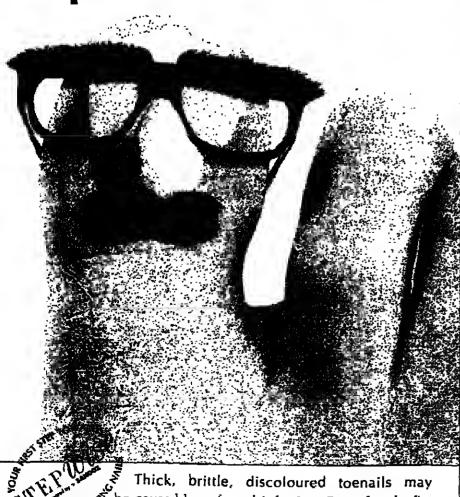
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Tomorrow: Robert Fisk talks to

There's no disguising problem toenails



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Every plucky underdog has his day

swift, nor the hattle to the strong, but that's the way to bet", said Damon Runyon, thus reflecting the great truth that the favourite is not often assed in the last furlong by an outsider. The favourite usually wins, yes. On the other hand, that is not always enough to make him popular. It is the underdog that people want to win, the little guy that nobody fancies. There is oothing quite like seeing Holyfield dump Tyson on his backside, or Sri Lanka thrash the world at one-day Birmingham and go on to take the FA Cup. (The latter is just wishful thinking from a Wrexham supporter, and has not actually happened yet in

this space-time continuum.) But the underdog can only win for a while before things change. Once the underdog starts winning, he isn't going to be the underdog for long or quite so popular, or not in the same way. Tim Henman will never quite be the dark horse again, the hrave little struggler - indeed, one day soon, Henman will be upset by an underdog, and my

goodness, what is this in Tuesday's paper? "Henman beaten by unknown." Henman, 17th in the world, put out of first round of the Dubai Open by the German Martin Sinner, 183rd in the

world. A new underdog!
So the hig guy can never
be the underdog. The only
way in which the hig guy can
ever achieve underdog status
is by control of the beautiful or the beauti is by preteoding to be, by rolling over on his back and looking temporarily helpless. Here is an interesting thought oo the film Independence Day by Phil Raby, the excellent film critic of the Bath Chronicle. "It (the film) fulfils all the

necessary conditions of the way Americans see themselves: unprovoked attack from out of nowhere by vastly superior faceless forces and defeat staring them in the face. Then comes retaliation and, against all the odds, victory. It's strange how the most powerful nation on Earth needs to see itself as a plucky underdog when, for the most part, its foreign policy has consisted of crushing plucky underdogs, but self-delusion is a



Miles Kington

Maybe it was for psychological reasons like this that McDonald's made the strange decision to take the McLibel two to court. Maybe McDonald's felt terribly, helplessly threatened by these two people handing out leaflets outside one of their London branches. Maybe McDonald's felt impelled to send in the lawyers to handle the two protesters in the same way that America used to feel impelled to send in military advisers to recalcitrant places, or to isolate them in

the same way America tries to isolate Fidel Castro (and thus help to make him the world's longest-surviving leader). Whatever the reason, McDonald's must now be regretting its decisioo to hlast the underdogs, as it must have lost them a lot of friends. It certainly helped decide me oever to go inside a McDonald's joint again, though in all honesty I cannot remember being a friend of McDonald's

And it has all happened again this week with the news that the big boys in the whisky industry are trying to squash a tmy firm in the Isle of Man which is putting out "Manx whiskey". As far as I can gather, they don't actually want the firm to disappear. They just want them to stop They just want them to stop calling it whiskey and start calling it Manx Magic or TT Thunder or something. Glen Kella Whiskey, as it is called, offends the mighty Scotch Whisky Association because it is not actually made on the it is not actually made on the Isle of Man – it is Scotch whisky bought in Scotland and redistilled to remove the colouring. You mustn't fiddle with whisky, says the SWA, or

it stops being whisky. What comes out of the cask after maturing is the real thing and shouldn't be fiddled with, as the bad boys of Glen Kella.

are doing. Now, quite apart from the distasteful sight of the huge industry combining to squash one little Manxman, the big boys are on dodgy ground here, because THEY too fiddle with whisky after it has

matured and left the cask. I am not referring here to the stuff called blended whisky, the Bell's and Famous Grouse and Teacher's and all that, which is a mystery to everyone because it combines an unspecified amount of unnamed malt whisky with an unspecified amount of nameless grain spirit coming

from no one knows where. Nor am I referring to the way whisky is reduced in strength by the addition of water, which it is. No. I am referring to the fact that even the so-called real thing, single malt whisky, is also tampered with by the industry after it has left the cask.

More on this tomorrow, if I haveo't been arrested by the whisky police.

England, stop whingeing about a Scottish parliament

y English political friends, listen to yourwords aboot a Scottish parliament, but to how you say them! s, devolution would create constitutional anomalies and risks. Yes, these should be pointed at and argued about. But in the reaction from Tory politicians, newspapers and commeotators to Opposition plans for an Edinburgh legislature, there is more than proper

THE INDEPENDEN

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In Ballymurghy, four trees

scepticism. There is an edge, and it is an angry, cutting one. Suddenly, like livid fungi, ugly old stereotypes are swelling. The Scots are "wingeing". They are greedy, idle, taking kind-hearted old England for a ride. They are "feather-bedded". They must be made to pay - cut, suffer -formaving their parliament. In fact, when the southern

commuter leaves his mortgagecommittee leaves his mortgage-subsidised suburban home to tracel by subsidised Londoo pulific transport to a job in a tangayer-funded government of ite, passing electronics and defince factories whose wealth comes from state cootracts, and sitting there, smoulders with anger at the thought of those kilted con artists living so high oo the hog in Govan or Graithnock, he is carrying on a loog English tradition. It goes back at least to 1603.

and the arrival of King James VI and I in London with his retinue of Edinburgh hangers-on. It grew in heat during the Civil War, blazed brightly after the Act of Union, and still crackled happily in Georgian England. The self-confidence of the

British Empire, a joint project, followed by world wars, sub-dued English resentment of uppity Scots and helped to cement Britishness. But it cement Britishness. But it that, instead, a Scottish parlia-remains an uneasy union. The devolution ment will consist of beer-slobbering, expensedebate has already begun to fan anti-Scottish sentiments at Westminster which are as clear,

though thankfully not quite as anatomically precise, as those I and my son endured recently at Twickenham (or Flodden-by-Thames, as we call it now). I am oever quite sure whether English Tory

critics of Scottish Home Rule are warning that it might break up the Union, or half-hoping that it will. There shoold be, at any rate, a proper accounting. If Scottish public spending is higher, because of urban deprivation and rural emptiness, then what about Scotland's contribution to the UK's finances and standing?

What about not only oil and gas, but also Britain's defence posture, with the Trident berths, and her weighted voting in the EU and her seat oo the Security Council? This is not to make a petty political-accountant's point, but to remind English readers that there is a deal, an agreement which benefits both sides

yes, you as well.

Would that be terminally jeopardised, as John Major suggests, by Scotland's ability to choose her own way more clearly in education policy, transport strategy and health? If both sides wanted a divorce it could certainly be used as an excuse. But there is oo sign that they do. Far from provoking a constitutional crisis, I'd have thought most English voters

would barely ootice. What matters is oot the West Lothian please relax.



Andrew

experiment

- not less

Marr Failure is always possible. But what we need in

Britain, surely, is more diversity and It could finally tackle High-

land land reform. It might, perhaps, go further towards environmental politics than the sooth is ready to. It could cre-ate a proper lobby for Scottish interests in Brussels. It could ...

fiddling third-raters who begin by losing the public's attention, and then throw away its support. But failure is possible for all parliaments everywhere. The interesting question isn't the old, nationalist one of which tribe or territory is covered by which boxful of politicians, but, rather, whether they have the wit and programme to make a difference

And what we oeed in Britain, surely, is more diversity and experiment, not less. Scottish charities and public bodies, advocates and educationists, investment houses and ministers are all subtly different in their attitudes and instincts from their rivals in London. Who would wish it otherwise? And we need comparison and competition in political attitudes and political processes as well as in commerce.
We are alive in a multi-ethnic, interwoven

country afloat in a similar sort of world. The Loodon-based Independent is part-owned by Irishmen and Spaniards, and edited by a Scot, while The Scotsman is owned, and now edited, by the English. Chippiness should be kept for the sports arenas and the back bar. What matters is what

is dooe, and how well - not, any longer, who does it. If a Scottish parliament works, it will be a source of inspiration and enlightenment for English democrats. If it doesn't, it will be an equally useful and relatively painless lesson for them. So, my English friends, democrats all -

question (which can have the fizz taken out of it by the removal of some Scottish MPs spate of nostalgic movie musicals around, but instead from Westminster) but the moch harder question of whether or not a Scottish parof being uplifting which you might expect of any musical, let alone offerings that ment can make itself useful. This is the real and so far unancvoke the past, they are mostly rather nasty. Only one, The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, is a must-watch. Wouldn't you know it? It's French. And it's wered challenge for Scottish

rance for other democracies, Who needs another pile of bloody politicians, sticking their oar in, when we already pay enough? That is the big ques-tion, what we might call the West European question, which should resonate everywhere. Scottish voters, like other voters, are unlikely to call for much higher taxes on themselves. Given that, what real difference could an Edinburgh parlia-

politics, but it is one with rele-

but talk about the past for an age and perhaps a society which ment make? assumes that charm must be weak-minded, patronising and phoney. Somewhere between musicals such as South Pacific or Intellectually disabled by chronic optimism, I still think the answer, for creative and ambitions politicians, is - a lot. It could show how a modern West Side Story and now, we lost the ability to see that toughness legislature might free itself of Westminster's Gothick selfand tenderness can flourish without descending into vio-lence or sentimentality. And importance, and reconnect with sceptical citizens. It could help to rebuild the striking Scottishperhaps we also put in peril the means of living happily together. Even the sensibly libness of Scottish education, a hard-headed, philosophical style of learning that has been eral film censor James Ferman bemoans the modern sea of almost, but not quite, forgotten. blood and sees it as a problem This would be dooe oot by barunique in the cinema's history, and a threat to our well-being. It is unlikely that he was thinkring English students, but by reforming the curriculum, aod management of schools and universities. ing of musicals when he considered the depraying effects of

But he might have. Take, for instance, the hrilliant new Robert Altman film, Kansas City. It is, as his Short Cuts would make one expect, noir and - as the cliche has it -Enough. You get the pic-ture. It is, of course, possible closely observed. Altman's

story-telling (rich dopehead kid-napped by flaky incompetent) is gripping and gives him lots of opportunities for vignettes of real insight. The result is a musical because, throughout the action, jazz musicians are playing themselves playing the classics of the Thirties, and because it is clear from the start that the idea of a music-mad town is what motivates the enterprise. All in all it is a triumph of style and intelligence, with the grip of a Raymond Chandler. Except that at one point in the film there is a stylish beating of great savagery and improbability. I didn't believe a beating like that would have taken place in the circumstances and even if it had, we didn't oeed to be shown it. I found myself withdrawing

not merely about the past, it's old (1964). Its director, Jacques

Demy, made no bones from the start: his film was to be delib-

erately, perhaps even kitschly, enchanting. It was to recapture

the romantic exhilaration of a

The other films, new and

newish, not merely lack charm.

side adolescence.

The Who's album Quadro-phenia, one of the best sustained works by any rock band, was recorded in 1973 and made into a film in 1979. The movie was made in the punk era, when nastiness was even more chic than usual among film-makers seeking to make a mark. The

from the whole film on account

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to movie mayhem by Richard D North

From musical magic



Pretty but profound: Catherine Deneuve in Demy's 'Umbrellas of Cherbourg'

Directors seem to have lost the ability to make films that are both charming and tough-minded, yet do not descend into violence

film, though not the previous the natural way of their grand- ling issue of just how much of frontations between Mods and Rockers on Brighton beach in the early Sixties. So far as I can gather, these were more like the ritual displays of mating birds than real war, but that wouldn't do for the film-makers. Franc Roddam, the director, portrays the Mods as nasty pieces of work, and depicts what were probably occasional serious incidents as routine.

in the late Sevennes, the Who put out an album called The Kids Are Alright, and I wore one of the badges advertising it. The odd thing is that the kids more or less are and were all right, but not as por-trayed by the Who's film. In any case their being all right is not much enhanced by a constant diet of tricked-up nastiness such as Quadrophenia. Young people seeing the film will think that contrived unpleasantness is that generation) and may as well not be eschewed now. Evita is closer to the old

model of musical than the others, simply because it was a fully-fledged stage show before being got up in celluloid. It can claim to be romantic, though of course it romanticises a tricky era of history rather than the mating game. The music in Evita is surprisingly engaging. The performances are good, including Madonna's. And yet the film is a rather nasty piece of work. Leave aside that it celebrates a dictator's wife. more to the point is that one is given very little reason for liking anyone in the piece, except perhaps the dictator himself, since he does at least seem to be in love. There is a peculiar disjunctioo betweeo soaring love songs (and even elegiac patriotic songs) and the troub-

score, dwells on the tribal confathers (Mods have become a frost Erita really was. It to anyone that it was necessary to make it clear where the film thought the truth might lie, and whether it redeems or condemns Eva Peron. It would have helped if the film had implied that its point of view is that such things don't matter, and that what does matter is to portray how interesting Evita is. But she isn't, on this account: Evita is oot much more than a wall of sound and some frocks. (By the way, this is pretty obviously a "chick" movie: let's release in art houses around the have no nonsense about

in these matters.) Alan Parker is a wonderfully

women being more scrupulous

talented director, but his lastelessness here should be no surprise: The Commitments, rather like the Who's Quadrophenia. seemed to suppose that no working-class young people could be depicted without pleoty of hitting going on. It's as though only the fist conveys authorities. authenticity.

There is no hitting at all in The Umbrellus of Cherbourg, set in the late Fifties or very early Sixties. The film is instead mag-ical. Never since Salad Days or The Revfriend, which belong to the Fifties, have the British produced u musical hall so romaotic. Salad Days was, ed course, satirical (it reminds one mostly of the style of the pocket cartoons of Osbert Lancaster. with shades of John Minton's drawings of sunny and youthful hoys and girls), and was fresh as springtime. *Umbrellas* is equally sharp in its observation. It is set in the real Cherbourg. and in a real garage. A mechanic falls in love with a girl in a real shop. The pettiness of her mother's social code, and her ambition for her daughter. ensure that their romance fails. But then you notice that the colours of this world are mostly pastel, and mostly clash. The current showings

demand to be seen because Demy's foresight has meant that ao exquisite restoration of the priots has been possible. There is a sort of Absolutely Fabulous passion for the just slightly sub-fluorescent. This colouring seems designed to express the idea of people surfing giddy emotions; they are literally a rosy view of youthful passion. But the young of Cherbourg face reality too. The film's themes are death, separation and disappointment.

Everybody ends up happy enough but with second-class or at any rate second-hand love. It is a plot of microscopic proportions but nice symmetries and the outcome is neither the film is sweet, it is not sentimental. It is in fact a deep piece of work, and certainly deeper about human, and especially youthful, motivation than Evita and the rest, It is a film for those prepared to cry, to enjoy understated pleasures. Above all it is for those rare moderns: people who are frightened of the modern fashion for aggression and rudeoess.

'Umbrellas of Cherbourg' is on

Life or death? We must all decide

loaked in its usual secrecy, last week the Medicines Control Ageocy made ao important decision, yet to be announced. They agreed to beense a new drug called Aricept, the first to make any improvement in the mental state of Alzheimer's patients. Now stand back and await the stampede.

What are health authorities to do? There are some 650,000 patients with dementia. (Twothirds of them have Alzheimer's, but identifying which ones have it is difficult.) The drug will cost £100 a month per patient. In April, when it will prohably hecome available, around half a million patients - or their carers - will head straight for their GPs to ask for the only treatment for this disease that has been proven to do any good at all.

Already the word is spreading fast. Wheo I first called the Alzheimer's Society an overenthusiastic worker told me that the new drug could make a 30 per ceot improvement in the hrain function of many sufferers. Later, their executive director was more circumspect. Certainly there are improvements for some, he agreed, but better cognitive ability in remembering numbers in laboratory tests does oot necessarily translate into people being able to find their way to

the lavatory. However, he had heard of



Polly Toynbee

If every treatment is a question of cost, the NHS will become a US-style safety net for the very poor

previously helpless patients taking part in the drug trials who had suddenly been able to write a shopping list, then go down to the shop and ask for everything on it. It will only take a few stories like that to make desperate carers frantic to get their hands on the drug.

So if half a million people demand the drug, it will cost some £600,000. How is the NHS to decide who gets it, and at what opportunity cost to other patients? Ask any politician and they

run a mile. Rationing? What rationing? I see no rationing. "Priority setting", perhaps, but the word "rationing" does oot cross their lips. The official line is that each health authority must decide how to spend their allocated funds according to local needs - as if these diseares were local Never has the cause of devolution been so passionately espoused as by our Pontius Pilate health ministers over the past few years.

Aricept helps the memory of those in the early and middle stages of Alzheimer's, but oot the painful process of disintegration of the personality. The drug may not make much difference to the amount of care they need, so it may not save care costs. Indeed, it could prolong the life of some and, if it were mistakenly prescribed to the already seriously affected, it could prolong their

right people get it, that is still some 200,000 - a hefty extra bill for health authorities.

Already, oew and expensive drugs are being denied to many patients: Beta Interferoo for multiple scierosis sufferers, Epo for kidney patients. Ributek for motor neurone dis-case. Worst of all is the failure to prescribe Clozapine for many schizophrenics, which would transform the lives of one-third of them and make another third significantly better. (Clozapine costs £5 a day, while the far less effective Largactil costs only 8p a day, and has bad side effects that mean patients often resist

taking it.) The mentally ill and those with rare conditions tend to be low priorities - and patients are still surprisingly patient. But Alzheimer's will be another story. There is barely a family in the land that does not fear it. There will be no holding back this tide of

So what should health aothorities do? Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority are trying to confront the problem rationally. They are about to bandle a request for funding one patient who will cost them £750,000 a year. Who is to take such lifeand-death decisions? They have decided in these cases to call a meeting of the 13 memmisery. But assuming only the bers of the authority, and to let

them make their decision in public. They first did this receotly

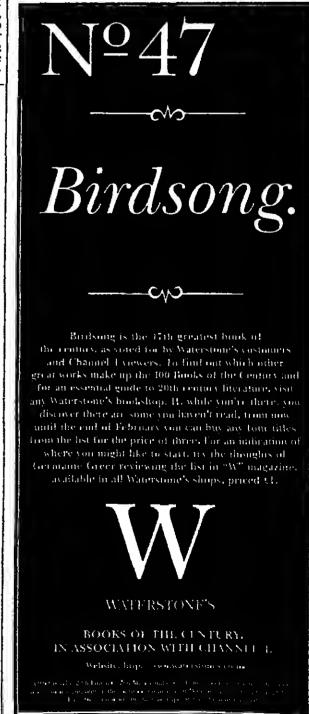
when lack of funding stopped all waiting list surgery - but oo members of the public turned up. They will do it again with this current case, keen to involve the public in making choices and gradually to edocate people into thinking about rationing. Each difficult case that gets publicised, such as that of Jaymee Bowen, the child who was initially refused a new cancer treatment partly because of cost, teaches people a little more of the language of priorities. But when we, the public, have thought about it, vhat then? Can we stomach joining in the decision to let someone - or thousands - die for lack of money?

Consider another dilemma facing this same Loodon health authority: their waiting list for angioplasty, a heart operation, is now so long that some will die because they cannot be treated io time. Should the authority warn those oo the list, so that they have the chance to save their lives by buying private treat-ment - admitting that the rich will live and the poor will die? They are still chewing over the precise wording of this difficult

If many state-of-the-art treatments are denied on the basis of cost, this will rapidly destroy the NHS as a universal service: all who can will buy the drug or the operation pri-vately and the NHS will become an Americao-style safety oet offering old-fashiooed, cheap treatment to the poor. It may not take very much of a squeeze to push us from one system to the other. It does not need any right-wing conspiracy to kill off the NHS - underfunding will do it just

Despite a lot of crying wolf (not from me) the NHS has been just sufficiently funded over the past 17 years of Conservative government. But this year the health service budget has taken a plunge. While it has averaged 2.6 per cent real growth since 1979, it will get a meagre 0.9 per cent this year, 0.8 per cent next year and -0.2 per cent the year after, while its costs soar.

Gordon Brown, Labour's would-be Chancellor, has signed up to keep within that impossible budget. So might Labour find itself presiding over a mass move into the orivate sector? All the evidence is that our tax-based system is far cheaper for everyone especially for the better off. Will public airing of NHS funding dilemmas persuade people that they oced to pay more tax to keep the health service at the cutting edge of medicine? It may be angry Alzheimer's families that force



Anthony Baines

inthony Baines was a writer on ars, from 1970 to 1980, curaor of the Bate Collection of listorical Wind Instruments Oxford University.

Baines did not set out on a nusical career. First a King's cholar at Westminster School. e won a scholarship tu read hemistry at Christ Church. Oxord. It was at Westminster nai he was first gripped by mu-ic. The resident King's Scholrs got dressed each morning to lassical overtures played on the ramophone by the senior boys. here he started learning clarnet and bassoon, and collectng musical instruments. At oxford, afternoons were spent yeling around Oxfordshire Ihis notorcycle having been sold to uy a saxophone), scouring inkshops for instruments. In he evenings he indulged his ove of jazz by playing clarinet nd sax in a jazz band as well s playing bassoon at every

pportunity.
After Oxford, Baines went to he Royal College of Music. there he was awarded an open cholarship on the bassoon and tudied orchestration with Gorlon Jacob. In 1935 he juined Sir homas Beecham's London hilharmonic as bassoon and ontra bassoon player.

At the nutbreak of the Secand World War there were no ommissions for men of his ge so, using slightly unconentinual means of producing he required papers, he went to wansea where he found a slace as an Ordinary Seaman in he Merchant Navy. On his reurn he received a commission o the Tanks Regiment and hen volunteered for service in

he Middle East. In 1942 he was wounded in iction, captured and eventualy sent by train, via Italy, to a risoner-of-war camp in Gernany. On this journey, he esaped twice: first from the noving train and later, when he vas recaptured, from a truck. The second time he was with a group of Sikhs who, incredibly, vere still in possession of their mives. Baines horrowed a knife and cut his way out of the canas truck. For six months, whilst on the run, he was disguised as m Italian shepherd and was

tusical instruments and for 10 Flake tobacco in his pocket. It and Albert Museum in 1968. remained a source of pride to him that after this there was a price on his head.

Once in the prisoner-of-war camp he did much for morale by arranging the music he could remember for any instruments there, including such unique combinations as banjo and douhle bass. In time the Red Cross sent a more conventional consignment of instruments. Amung many other works he arranged and conducted completely from memory was

Beethoven's Eroica Symphony. After demoh in 1945 he returned to the LPO until appointed Assistant Conductor. From 1950 he was Associate Conductor of the International Ballet Company up to the disbandment of the company m 1954. It was there, in 1950, that he met the oboist Patricia Stammers (now known as an authority on hand-woven textiles and also the author of several books), who became his wife in 1960. His first publications, performing editions of early music, appeared at this time, together with articles on musical instruments for the fifth edition of Grove's Dictionary (1954).

Since the war Baines's collection of instruments had grown by leaps and bounds, and he had a growing circle of likeminded friends. Together, in 1946 they formed the Galoin Society, named (at Baines's suggestion) after the foremost British authority and collector up to that time, Canon Francis Galpin. The Galpin Society Journal, which Baines was to edit for 21 years, was the first ever dedicated to musical

In 1955 he decided to concentrate on research and writing and left the performing world to become bandmaster at Uppingham School followed by a spell at Dean Close, Cheltenham. His first full book, Woodwind Instruments and Their History, was published in 1957. This was followed by a monograph, Bagpipes, on the Pitt Rivers Museum's collection. in 1960, European and American Musical Instruments in 1967 and the official catalogue of

only betrayed by the tins of Gold the collection of the Victorian Baines was appointed first

Lecturer/Curator of the Bate Collection of Historical Wind Instruments in 1970, where he stayed until his retirement in 1980. His book Brass Instruments was published in 1976 followed by numerous articles for the New Grove's Dictionary.

From the time he was in the Army he had used his collection of instruments to illustrate his lectures; about the time of his marriage he had sold most of his collection to Philip Bate. Now he had them to hand unce more and enjoyed the use of them both in lectures and the Bate Collection being a playing collection, he founded the Bate Band, which gave concerts of Haydn and Mozart on the collection's instruments. These were among the earliest performances of music of this period on original instruments. Those who attended his lectures will not forget them, not unly because of the content of his teaching and the depth of his learning, but also because of his own inimitable lecturing style and his endearing battles with modern technology.

Baines was elected a Supernumerary Fellow of University College, Oxford, in 1975 and, on retirement in 1980, an Ordinary Fellow of the British Academy for services to music. Whatever Baines did be did

with enthusiasm and thoroughness. Recuperating after an accident he noticed the "weeds" in the garden; this grew into a passionate hobby and he produced beautiful botanical notebooks recording the wild flowers he saw, During the last four years of his life he found another interest; drawing and pastel painting. He was equally enthusiastic in his support of his wife's work and interests; and it is his line drawings which illustrate her hook Spinning Wheels, Spinners and Spinning (1977). Visitors to their Oxford home will remember the flax and woad grown in the garden which Baines helped to prepare for spinning and dyeing.

On retirement Tony Baines continued to write, The Oxford Companion to Musical Instrunon-keyboard instruments in ments (1992) being his last



the Curt Sachs Award of the American Musical Instrument Society's Curt Sachs Award; and in 1994 he was given an honorary Doctorate of Music at Edinburgh University. He remained characteristically unassuming. On hearing of the dedication of the Baines Music Garden at the Pitt Rivers Museum as an 80th birthday present (in part a thank-you for his authorship of the museum's best-seller. Bagpipes, which has been constantly in print since publication), he was thrilled.

But why should they do that for

book. In 1985 he was awarded . Anthony Cuthbert Baines, musician, conductor, scholar of musical instruments; born London 6 October 1912: member. London Philliarmonic Orchestra 1935-39, 1946-49: Associate Conductor, International Ballet Co 1950-54; member, music staff. Uppinghum School 1954-65; Editor. Galpin Society Journal 1956-63, 1970-S4; member, music staff, Dean Close School 1965-70: Lecturer and Curator, Bate Collection of Historical Wind Instruments, Oxford University 1970-80; Fellow, University College, Oxford 1974-80: FB.4 1980; married 1960 Patricia Stammers; died Farnham, Helene La Rue Surrey 2 February 1997.

Stephen Rees Jones

Stephen Rees Jones trained a generation of paintings conservators at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. He was Head of the Technology Department of the institute for 25 years, from 1951 to 1976.

His most important legacy is the establishment of formal postgraduate training in paintings conservation which he achieved just before his retirement. This consolidated irreversibly the transformation of a profession which had relied on traditional apprenticeships, instating academic values, a spir-it of learning and self-criticism and a multidisciplinary approach combining elements from science, art history and fine arts.

Born in 1909, he was educated at Flintshire Grammar School, and studied Physics at the University College of North Wales at Bangor. In 1935 he became a research assistant at the newly created Scientific Department of the Courtauld Institute of Art where he worked with W.G. Constable, D.V. Thompson and others laying the foundations for technical studies of the arts.

During the Second World War he went to work for the Ministry of Aircraft Production. He returned to the Courtauld institute after the war and in 1951 became Head of the Technology Department. He was very much the lone scientist in an institute dedicated to art history but he began to engender in the art history students an appreciation of the material nature of paintings. This was sometimes a daunting task since there were few textbooks or experts to turn to and the students frequently had very little grounding in science.

In the main, his information came from the technical exammation of paintings which was gradually developing during this period. Microscopy, technical photography, emission specrography and X-radiography were his principal tools. Even the most impractical undergraduates received the experience of secing a painting through a binocular microscope and came away acutely conscious of the delicacy of its surface.

The methods of examination developed at the Courtauld, the National Gallery and elsewhere have transformed our un-

derstanding of paintings. Recs Jones undertook systematic Xradiography of the paintings that came into the department and in this way extended the scope of connoisseurship to otherwise invisible aspects of paintings. He collected a useful group of fakes and copies for study purposes and a small museum of pigments. He huilt Xray diffraction equipment for the analysis of crystalline pig-ments. He had to be resourceful and the accumulation of a body of knowledge was a slow process. Gradually there developed a wider appreciation of what was heing achieved and interest grew. Rees Jones was then able to attract students to investigate conservation problems such as the action of solvents on paintings and better methods of lining. He built the first hot-table for the wax-

important innovation. He also played a part in the formation of the main professional bodies of conservation. the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic works (IIC) in 1950 and

lining of canvas paintings, an

its UK group, now the UKIC. The value of his work became evident to a wider audience during the cleaning controversy of the 1960s. Renewed interest in the removal of discoloured varnish, in particular through the work of Ruhemann at the National Gallery during the 1940s and 1950s, led to a fierce dispute. Rees Junes was able to provide a balanced and objective view that was also independent of the National Gallery. His contribution to the debate helped to dispel some of the wilder allegations and helped focus on the scientific issues, in particular the potential for leaching of low molecular weight material from the paint film by the action of cleaning solvents.

All this work was carried out at 20 Portman Square. The Technology Department was confined to the bottom of the self: an important lesson for garden in the former coachhouse and stables. There Rees Jones pieced together a complex of tiny studios and laboratories Stephen Rees Jones, art where his enthusiasm and imagination could flourish undisturbed. Training in conservation was at first on an ad hoc basis; en. Eventually the course be-

came mure secure with a small hut regular intake. Then, in 1976, it finally became a full three-year postgraduate diploma course and Rees Jones was acknowledged with a Chair Emeritus By his retirement the work of his department had reached its highest standard, in particular the research that was so much needed by the new profession.

His department continues to flourish and Rees Jones, following his retirement to Sussex. continued to publish arcane but interesting calculations, for instance, on the optics of paint films or the diffusion of moisture in wood. He was also Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Academy of Arts, an honorary post that involved a series of ectures to art students.

Stephen Rees Jones will be remembered fondly by his stu-



es Jones: unpredictabl

dents for his enquiring mind and to his subject. He was a smiling, diminutive figure, unpredictable but never unreliable. When students became too tiresome and a discussion too involved he had the knack of disappearing through one of the many interconnecting doors in the department. No one knew exactly how he managed to slip away but the message was clear - think out problems for youraspiring conservators.

Stephen Hackney

conservationist: born Holywell, Flintshire I September 1909; married 1939 Margaret Laffineur (died 1994; two sons); died Lewes, East Sussex 17 December

Chico Science

Thico Science was one of the nost internationally promising iew pop creators in Brazil, an ncreasingly important nation in erms of the global music in-Justry. Brazil became the world's sixth largest recorded

nusic market last year. Against the background of a nusic scene containing many ock, rap and ballad performers. ne managed to find a formula which struck both Brazilians and European, American and lapanese "world music" contumers as original and distinctive ol his region, and his two CD alours and international tours had seen extremely well received.

Chico Science was born Franisco de Assis França in 1967 in the tropical north-eastern city of Recife, which adjoins the reautiful and decaying 18thentury colonial centre Olinda. The local traditional music of Pernambuco State, of which Recife is the capital, includes fast drum rhythms such as the frevo, embolada, coco de roda. and above all maracatu, which animates Recife's hig carnival. It was the incorporation of these into a mix of heavy rock,



rap which coalesced around 1993 into a mix that came to he called mangue (mangrove beat, after the local vegetation).

Chico Science's early musical influences were mainly black American - James Brown, the Sugar Hill Gang, Grandmaster Flash - who he listened to with his street chums in the Rio Doce suburb on the edge of Olinda in the early Eighties. By 1984 he had joined an informal neighbourhood street band called the Hip Hop Legion, then a rock hand called Orla Orhe, and by the end of the decade had comic illustrator of that name. In 1991, having acquired his stage name, Chico Science, as a self-proclaimed "scientist of sound", he brought together percussionists from an Afrocentric Olinda group named Lamento Negro with his rock colleagues and created Nacao Zumbi ("Nation of Zumbi"), the group he led to fame, named after the leader of a 19thcentury slave revolt. Other cultural heroes name-checked in the introduction to the group's first alhum, Da Lama Ao Caos ("From Mud To Chaos", 1994), included Zapata, Sandino, the Black Panthers and Lam-piao. a 19th-century bandit from the Brazilian hush whose legend fea-

into the musical mix. To accompany his music, Science developed a cultural theory, as his 1970s role models. northern singers like Gillerto Gil. had done with "Tropicalism". "Afrociherdelia", the catchphrase which summed up Science's theory, became the ti-tle of his second aloum in 1005.

tures strongly in the country folk

literature Science incorporated

cyhernetics", and "osychedelia", as "a creative mixture of tribal and high tech elements" and "the art of mapping the collective unconscious via electronic stimuli, verbal automatism and intense movement."

In 1994, American and Swiss entrepreneurs at a Brazilian music festival were impressed by Science's performance - which I recall as very energetic and very loud - and a successful European and American tour followed. Major Brazilian popular singers such as Maria Bethania were beginning to use Science's songwriting talents and the future looked rosy. Had his car not been hit hy another on the outskirts of Olinda last week, Science and his band would have been, for the first time the star attraction of the Recife carnival, perched alop a huge trio eletrico sound truck, thundering through the streets of their home city.

Philip Sweeney

Francisco de Assis Franca (Chico Science), singer: born Recife, Brazil 1967; died Olinda, Brazil 2 February 1997.

formed his own group, Loustal, The album's sleeve notes explain If ever there was a heyday for in Munich, in which she vied gan a branch of her career which bon Story and The Merry Widin homage to the French adult the term, a hybrid of "Africa". | English musical comedy it must with the resident prima donna. was to mean a great deal to her ow and Bitter Sweet, and did a joined its ranks. She had all the

qualities - looks, charm, ty and freshness" were enchanting enough to have made her a warmth of temperament, sympathy, gentleness, a good voice star overnight. The Play Pictoand a pleasing manner. It was part of her appeal that she should be content not to push herself into the limelight but to

occupy it when required. A grandmother, an aunt, an uncle and both parents had all served on the boards; and no sooner had young Eve come forward as a Cochran young lady in Noël Coward's revue Words and Music at the Adelpts in 1932 than this delightful crea-

ture was evidently going to sustain the Lister tradition. As she stood in that crowded chorus line - the cast numbered over a hundred -Cochran could see that his latest "young lady" need never play another. She had a leading part in his next production. Music in the . lir (His Majesty's). It was that of a simple Bavarian village girl in Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's lat-

Did she triumph? She did not. But Lister's "virginal beau-

rial featured her lovely features on four successive pages. Her vanity however did not and never would extend to even a cuttings book. After Music in the .4ir she spent four years in films (including several for John Baxter, Birds of a Feather, Sun-

shine Alread, and The Girl in the Crowd); but at the same time be-



tomine. Friendly, forthright, trustworthy, she had the "go", the dash - and svelte figure - to

Eve Lister

make a star principal boy. She had the precious gift of seeming always natural. And it was touchingly exemplified in one of the dozen odd films she made in the mid-1930s, George King's Sweeney Todd (1935).

As she nearly falls victim to the eye-rolling Todd Slaughter's attempts to set her on fire, Lister has dressed herself as a barber's apprentice to track down the cockney villain; and while the film creaks her acting in its

simple-hearted case does not. But the straight actress of the cinema rarely went straight in the theatre. After the wartime revues in Edinburgh and Glaspow of that summer season show, Half-Past Eight, came tours of musical comedies like Sidney Monckton's A Country Girl and Happy Birthday and a West End show with Nervo and Knox and Will Hay, For Crying Out Loud (Stoll 1945).

She also toured in Harold

Purcell's musical play The Lis-

the old Prince's, now the Shaftesbury (The Nightingale, 1947, and Happy as a King, 1953) and had a long run with Fred Emney and Richard Hearne in Blue for a Boy (His Majesty's, 1950) which brought enough acclaim for Marlene Dietrich as hostess at the Café de Paris to introduce her to the caharet audience.

But the show that should have gone to Lister's bead if she had had that kind of head was The King and I (Drury Lane, 1955) when she took over as Anna from Valerie Hobson. If there was anything to be gained from the inge of cast, one critic declared, "It was due largely to the performance of Miss Lister with her "excellent singing voice, warm personality, and sense of humour - and of dignity".

Adam Benedick

Phyllis Eve Lister, actress: born Brighton 12 December 1913: married first Hugh French (one son: marriage dissolved), second Bernard Hunter, died London 31

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

SANGSTER: On 6 February 1997, to Suzanne Ince Envior I and Mark, a son, Rory William, a brother for Lucy and

DEATHS

BROWN: On 7 February, Dems Downing, formerly of the Foreign Office, and of P&O: dearly loved husband of Patricia, dear father of Andrew and lona, and loved grandfather of Felix PERREN: Berry, on 8 February 1997,

with great courage and dignity.
Belowed mother of Peter and Nick,
grandmother to Hannah and
Georgina, Funeral service to be held
at \$1 Mary's Church, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, at 10.30am on Wednesday 19 February, No flowers please, but donations to the Burnham Museum, c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 13-15 Market Hill, Maldon,

STEVENS COX: James, FSA, on 7 Feb-ruary 1997, in Guernsey, beloved husband of Adele.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding amiversuries. In Memorizan should be sent in writing o the Gazette Editor. The Inde to the Gazzate Entitle The Independent, I Camado Square, Catary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette amountements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a day-time telephone number.

Birthdays Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Com-

mander-in-Chief, Fleet and Commander, Naval Forces, North Western Europe, 55; General Sir John Akehurst, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 67; General Sir John Archer, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 73: Professor Arnold Beckett, pharmacist, 77: Mr Roland Boyes MP, 60: Mr Alec Carlile QC, MP, 49: Miss Annelle Crosbie, actress, 63: Mr Howard Davies, Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 46; Sir James Duonell, former senior civil servant, 83: Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-Chaocellor, Leicester University. 63; Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman. Turner and Newall, 77; Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, for mer trade union leader, 87; Mr Paul Hamlyn, publisher, 71: Miss Christine Hancock, General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 54: Mr An-

thony Howard, Obituaries Editor, the Times, 63; Mr Simon MacCorkindale, actor, 45: Sir Robio Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to the Queen, 77; Mr David MacLennan, amhassador to the Lebanon, 52; Lord Murison, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 66: Lord Moyola, former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 74; Mr John Raisnan, former chairman, Shell UK, 68: Sir Richard Rougier, High Court judge. 65; Mr Peter Soape MP, 55; The Hon Nicholas Sonmes MP, Min-

ister of State for the Armed Forces.

soo. librarian. 76; Mr Franco Zef-

firelli. opera, theatre and film director, 74.

49: Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP, 59; Sir Aubrey Trutman-Dickenson, for-Dinners mer Principal, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 71: Mr Gundap-pa Visvanath, cricketer, 48, Lord Wigoder OC, 76; Mr Alexander Wil-

Ministry of Defence Mr James Arbuthnot MP, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, was the host at a dinner held yes-terday at Admirulty House, London SW1, in honour of Sheikh Salem Al-

Anniversaries

Births: Charles Darvin, naturalist, 1809. Deaths: Lat Jane Grey, Queen for nine days, executed 1553: Lillie Langtry, actress, 1929. On this The Speaker day: the French were defeated by the English at the Battle of the Herrings (Rouvray), 1429. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony Kauleas, St Ethelwald of Lindisfarne, St Julian the

Lectures

Institute of Economic Affairs, London SW1: David Starkie, "Allocating Airport Slots: a role for the market?".

Hospitaller, St Ludan, St Marina or Pelagia and St Melenius.

Luncheons

Ministry of Defence The Hon Nicholas Soames MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the host at a luncheon held westerday at Admiralty House, London SW L in honour of Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince of the State of Bahrain and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Forces

Maple Leaf Club Ms Margaret Drubble was the guest

of bonour at a luncheon meeting of the Maple Leaf Club bold yesterday at the Royal Over-Seas League, St James's Londor SW1. Mrs Judith M. Steiner, Chairman of the Club.

Sabah, Minister for Defence of the

The Speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd, held a dinner yesterday evening in Speaker's House, London SWI, in honour of Mr P.A. Sangma, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Lord Mayor of Westminster Princess Michael of Kent was the

guest of honour at a Gala Charity Dinner held vesterday evening at the Wallace Collection. London W1. The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Robert Davis, and the Lady May-oress, Miss Carole Franco, were the

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held by the Foundation for Science and Technology yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SWI. Miss J.H. Bacon, Mr Robin Grove-White and Professor Sir Tom Blun-dell spoke on "Scientific Judgement contribution to or substitute for

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard
The Homehold Cresby Mounted Regiment mounts
the Owney's Life Guard at Buent Guards, Harry Let
Bushington Scott Guards mounts the Quart's Grand, as
Bushington Polars, 11 Jone, that provided by the

Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Millett, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas) 28 January 1997

The Pensions Ombudsman had

no jurisdiction to entertain a complaint by a retired council employee over the alleged maladministration of his pension because the relevant payments came from the council's severance and compensation scheme, and constituted benefits for loss of employment through voluntary redundancy, and were not strictly speaking part of his pension, which came from the coun-

cil's superannuation scheme.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Westmin-ster City Council against the decision of Mr Justice Robert Walker, who ruled that the Pensions Ombudsman had had jurisdiction to hear a complaint against the council by Jeffrey Hawood, a retired employee, but set aside the ombudsman's direction that the council should restore Mr Haywood's budsman ordered the council benefits to their former level.

Mr Haywood had been told their former level. that on accepting voluntary Elizabeth Slade QC and Charles redundancy at the age of 50 he would become entitled to immediate payment of (a) a pension of £7,376 per annum and

Decision by pensions ombudsman overruled

a lump sum of £22,129 by way of superannuation benefits: (b) statutory redundancy of 1,544; and (c) a lump sum of £8,509 and an annuity of £3,950 per annum as compensation under the council's severance

and compensation scheme. Ten months after retiring, Mr Haywood was informed by letter that the council had been advised that its severance and compensation scheme was unlawful in a number of respects (because it exceeded statutory limits on such payments) and that his "gross pension" would be reduced by approximately £158 per mouth. The reduction came exclusively out of his com-

pensation annuity payments. The ombudsman, upholding Mr Haywood's complaint, found he had suffered injustice, in consequence of the council's maladministration, consisting in the reduction of his compensation payments. The omto restore the payments to

Bear (Westminster City Solicitor) for the council; Andrew Arden QC and Jonathan Manning (Paisner & Co) for

LAW REPORT 12 February 1997

> Lord Justice Millett said that under section 146 of the Pensions Scheme Act 1993 the omhudsman had jurisdiction to investigate and determine any complaint made by an "authorised complainant", being a person who was or had been in pensionable service" under an occupational pensions scheme, who alleged that he had sustained injustice in consequence of maladministration in connection with any act or umission of the trustees or managers of administrators of

Mr Haywood had been "in pensionable service" (as defined by section 70 of the Act) under the council's superannuation scheme. But he had not been "in pensionable service" under its severance and compensation scheme. He was not therefore an "authorised complainant" under that scheme

the scheme.

considered on its own. The judge beld that the words "scheme" and "arrangement" in the definition of "occapational pensions scheme" in section t were of the widest scope and that the council's severance and compensation scheme and its superannuation

scheme, though differently funded, should be regarded as forming a single scheme or

His Lordship disagreed. The two schemes had been originally established as distinct scheme at different times, under different statutory powers, subject to different statutory regimes for different purposes, and had always been separately funded. That the two monthly payments were paid together and charged in the first instance to the council's payroll was purely a mancr of administrative convenience. They were separately calculated and must have been separately accounted for

in the council's books. It followed that the omhudsman had no jurisdiction to hear a complaint about the administration of the severance

and compensation scheme. Even if the ombudsman had had jurisdiction, he should not have directed the council to restore the monthly payments to their original level. While the reduction in the mouthly payments to the maximum the council could lawfully pay undoubtedly caused Mr Haywood loss, it could

not be said to constitute maladministration. Paul Magrath, Barrister

unit trusts

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business & city

Unilever sells £5bn chemical division

Disposal of interests will wipe out £1.7bn debt and provide war chest

Nigel Cope

Niall FitzGerald, the new chairman of Unilever. signalled a new era for the sprawling consumer goods conglomerate vesterday with a surprise decision to put its speciality chemicals division up for sale in a move that could raise £5bn.

The proceeds will wipe out Unilever's £1.7bn of debts and leave Mr FitzGerald with a huge war chest as he seeks to redefine Unilever as a more focused fast-moving consumer goods company similar to rivals Nestle. Procter & Gamble and Campbell's.

Mr FitzGerald, who took over as chairman in September, said the decision was part of a plan to "de-clutter" the Unilever portfolio and concentrate on key brands which include Persil detergents, Flora margarine and ice-creams such as the Magnum and Solero. Though the chemicals divi-

sion is highly profitable, Mr FitzGerald said that 16 per cent of the business was underperforming and that dis-posals in the foods division would follow.

Unilever's shares put on 78.5p to £14.71p as City analysis welcomed the shake-up. Shares in Reckitt & Colman and Cadhury Schweppes also rose as industry experts said a deal in Europe or North America was

most likely.
As analysts pondered a possible re-rating of Unilever's shares, they said the bold move represented a re-invention of a company which in the past has been criticised for being cumbersome and bureaucratic.

"What we are looking at is a

fundamental re-evaluation of Unilever's business," one analyst said. "They are not selling the crown jewels, they are saying let's define ourselves not by our history but by what we are good at."

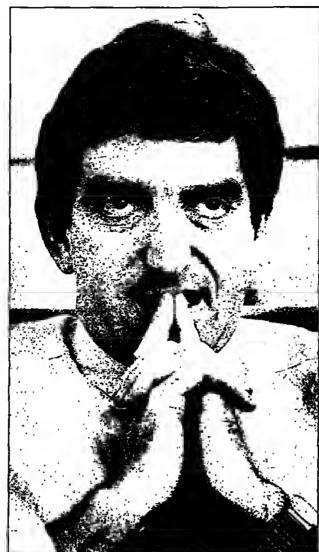
Announcing the sell-off plan Mr FitzGerald said: "This intention is a clear demonstration of our commitment to focus our attention on the fast-moving consumer product and service category and related husinesses m which we excel and in which we are determined to lead the world.

He said the decision to exit speciality chemicals had not been easy, "It's a strategic decision to do with where we want to be in the future. We either had to double the size of the [speciality chemicals] business or get out."

Mr FitzGerald said a trade

sale was more likely than a flotation. Though he did not rule out returning cash to shareholders be expressed more interest in developing Unilever's interests in emerging markets such as China, South-east Asia, south Latin America and eastern Europe where Unilever is enjoying rapid growth. The businesses up for sale

have combined turnover of £3hn and staff of 15,800 in 35 countries. Last year they recorded combined profits of £415m. The highest price tags are likely to be attached to the National Starch and Chemical Company, which produces industrial adhesives, resins and speciality starches, and Quest International, a leading fragrances company with interests in food flavour and ingredients. Analysts said the sale of these



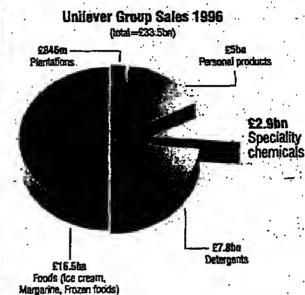
Signal of Intent: Niall Fitzgerald, chairman, said the self-off plan meant commitment in consumer products and services

two "collectors' items" was likely to spark an auction. Possible buyers for National Starch include Heockel, du Pont and Associated British Foods, Companies such as IFF and Roche

would be interested in Quest. Also up for sale is Unichema International, an oil and fats business that makes ingredients for soaps, skincare products and shampoos, and Crostield, a pro-

Largest consumer goods companies compared. 1995 sales in \$bn Philip Morris What's for sale

The Big Unilever Shake-up



use in the petroleum and plastics industries.

The shake-up came as Mr
FitzGerald announced a 15 per

of 1996. The figures were dented by £325m of exceptional items of which £100m related to the integration of the Helene idend was 32.05p. cent rise in pre-tax profits to Curtis haircare divisioo and

ducer of inorganic chemicals for £2.6bn for the year to the end the Diversey industrial cleaning Group sales were up 6 per ceot at £33.5bn. The final div-

National Starch and Chemical

Company: a world wide producer

of industrial adhesives, resins and

speciality chemicals and speciality

starches

nickel catalysts,

Estd value:

Crostiekt; an international

£5bn

Gover in o The company, headed by Brian Souter, has served actice Quest International: leading companies in fragrances as well that it intends to expand ag-gressively from the bus indusas food flavour and ingredients, Unichema International: leader in try into trains. But in recent speciality oleochemicals and days it has lost out in the hidding for two high-profile franchises - the West Coast producer of inorganic chemicals Mainline and ScotRail, based upon silica and alumina

Chris Godsmark

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Section 5

South West

fined over

cancelled

services

Stagecoach, the bus and rail

operator, is to be fined over the

train crew shortages that have

forced its South West Trains

division to cancel commuter

services into London's Water-

loo station.
A spokesman for the Fran-chising Director, John O'Brien.

said yesterday that financial penalties would be levied on South West Trains under the

performance regime agreed

when it was awarded the seven-

year franchise a year ago.
The cancellations are a severe

embarrassment for Stagecoach, which took over the franchise

promising an improved service, better trains and more cus-

tomer information.

Michael Harrison

Trains

South West Trains commercial director, Peter Cotton, is to he quizzed about the cancelations at a meeting with a rail users' committee tomorrow evening. A spokeswoman for the London Regional Passengers Committee said: "We are concerned about what is happening and so are our passengers. We have had an influx of complaints and want to hear

some answers." The root cause of the probem is a redundancy programme introduced last month which resulted in 70 of South West Trains' 750 drivers taking voluntary severance. A spokeswoman insisted that although the company still had more drivers than it needed, it had been forced to cancel services because a number of train crews had been sent on retraining courses to cope with new soutes

South West Trains is one of the busiest commuter railways in Europe, operating services between London, Southampton, Weymouth and Exeter as well as suburban services to the west and south of London. It transports 300,000 passengers a day. Amoog the trains that have been cancelled are mainline services to Reading and peak-time commuter services.

The spokeswoman said that it had only cancelled an average of 14 services out of the 1,500 it runs every weekday but she conceded that most of these were at peak times and that it was causing meonven-

ience to passengers.

We are not complement about the cancellations and we are working hard with Aslef, the train drivers' union, to rectify the problems," she added.

Stagecoach was awarded the franchise in February last year after agreeing to operate the service with a subsidy falling from £54.7m in the first year to £40.3m in year aeven. This compares with the £83.4m subsidy British Rail was budgeted

to receive in 1995-96. The Office of Passenger Rail Franchising said that it had been in contact with South West Trains and had made it plain that it expected the probems to be rectified as a matter of urgency. "It is not our job to run their husiness but we do have unlimited powers to penalise rail operators who fail to

deliver," a spokesman added. Under the performance regime, Opraf can penalise operators on a monthly basis if they fail to meet agreed service levels. The system is weighted so that penalties are higher if trains are cancelled at peak

MMC referral deals blow to Sears' ambition

Nigel Cope

Scars' restructuring plans ran into fresh problems vesterday when the Government said it would be referring Littlewoods' proposed acquisition of the Freemans mail order business to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The referral of the £395m deal is a severe blow to Liam Strong, the beleaguered Sears chief executive, who had hoped to use the proceeds from the sale to return up to £410m to



Beleaguared: Liam Strong under renewed pressure

shareholders. The MMC is due to report on the deal by 9 June causing a delay in Sears' plans for a special dividend. Mr Strong had asked Sears'

increasingly frustrated investors to give him until the summer to show the group was turning the comer.

Scars said it remained committed to the disposal of Freemans to Littlewoods, However, the MMC's decision means the contract for the sale signed last

FTSE SmattCap 2326.58

FTSE All-Share 2098.52

The deal's referral surprised the City because Sears had said in January that the Office of Fair Trading had indicated that the Secretary of State did not intend to refer the acquisition.

As Sears shares fell 2p to 83.5p one analyst said: "It is further evidence of Sears' ability to attract had luck. Sears is understood to have had legal advice which indicated that there would not be a problem.

Though analysts said they felt the MMC was unlikely to block the deal, the delayed sale could place further strains on Sears' cash flow.

If the deal is blocked it would force the company to seek an alternative buyer for Freemans. possibly at a lower price.

combined Freemans-Littlewoods mail order business would have more than 25 per cent of the UK mail order market. However, the Government's statement refers specifically to the combined group's dominance of the agency part of the sector, where cash is collected every week by the

company's army of agents.

Sears and Littlewoods are likely to argue that the mail order sector also includes direct catalogue groups such as a Next Directory, Racing Green

and N Brown. Mark Josephson of Panmure Gordon said the two companies could also argue that the mail order market transcends national boundaries and should be regarded as a pan-European

Nick Bubb of Mees Pierson also expressed surprise at the decision. "It's not their [Sears']

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Source: FT Information

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Davies softens stance over rates increase

Diane Coyle

The deputy governor of the peated its call for an increase in interest rates. But, in a speech ust ahead of the publication of its quarterly Inflation Report today, Howard Davies struck a noriceably softer note than any recent comment from the Bank. Mr Davies echoed recent

statements that a rise in interest rates would be desirable. We are not entirely persuadbeen given," be said.

However, he added: "I sbould say the rise in rates we think necessary to meet the target is modest. We have been talking about a quarter per cent in the short term, with perbaps a little more later in the

The economy's recovery had been steadier and with lower in-

ed that on current interest rates flation than was typical, he maining consistent with the diture meant the short-term we are on track to meet the said. The gap between the Bank Government's inflation target of and the Chancellor on interest ing about differences ter of a per cent." In a speech to a Housing Cor-

poration conference, Mr Davies warned that the Bank remained on the alert for any signs of a housing boom. A continuing "robust rise" would be a matter for concern, although he added that house prices remained low relative to earnings, and could rise a little while re-

us into the kind of beady territory we explored in the late 1980s which, in retrospect, we know to have been an experience which was bound to end in tears and did," Mr Davies said. He also predicted that the private sector would not be able to

meet all of the extra demand for housing in the next 20 years. Planned cuts in public expen-

Government's inflation target. prospects for social housing "What we need to watch were not bright. Housebuilding 2.5 per cent over the next two rates was small. We are talk carefully though, is any sign that by housing associations was But referring to Department

of Environment predictions that the number of households would increase by 4.4 millioo during the next two decades, mainly in the form of one-person units, he argued that the housing market would need to become more flexible, with a greater variety of types of tenure and sources of funding.

Sumitomo bid rumours surround Lehman Bros

David Usborne New York

The future of Lehman Brothers. the American investment bank with a significant presence in London, is again under the microscope amid a swirl of rumours that it could be the subject of a buyout hid by Japan's Sumitomo Bank.

Lehman, which does not have a large securities retail network following its separation from Shearson in 1990, is one among several US financial houses being viewed as likely players in a new wave of consolidation on Wall Street in the wake of the Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter merger of last week.

Sources inside the bank yesterday said they had no knowledge of an approach by Sumitomo. "I have been hear-ing a lot about Hong Kong Shanghai and the really hot one for a while was Bankers Trust," one insider remarked. "If it were Sumitomo, I would be really surprised."
There is a consensus that

Lehman, which has seen its stock value double since it was spun off by American Express in 1992, is an attractive target for firms, including banks, seeking new partners. Banks have had the path cleared toward the purchase of investment firms by the recent easing of the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act which placed barriers between them and

Other possible targets regularly cited include Bear Steams. the Prudential Securities division of Prudential Insurance Co. Paine Webber and regional US firms like A G Edwards and Alex Brown of Baltimore.

If Lehman is anxious to remain independent, however, it could equally attempt to move first in an acquisition of its own. A search for a partner with a strong securines retail capa-bility could lead it to Paine

Paine Webbber shares were driven up last week by rumours that it, and not Dean Witter, would be the target of Morgan Stanley's appente.

Expectations of further consolidations were fuelled by harp rises in the shares of man Wall Street firms immediately after the Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter announcement However, Scott Pardee, a

International, voiced doubts yesterday that foreign banks, including Sumitomo, could easily overcome regulatory con-cerns in Washington.
"I think this is going to be US hanks looking at each other," he said. "Cross-border and

senior adviser with Yamiachi

cross-industry acquisitions could quickly run into ques-tions with the regulators and l think it would be very difficult." Ironically, the history of Lehman Brothers, and in par-

ticular its unhappy pairing with Shearson in the 1980s, offers one cautionary tale about the limits of coupling traditional in-vestment banking services with a strong retail capacity. Shearson was meant to provide Lehman with a strong retail dimension, but the two firms never furnly melded.

BP 'self-help' yields record £2.6bn profit

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

British Petroleum yesterday attributed a 30 per cent increase in its underlying annual profits to a record £2.6bn to the group's so-called "self-help" drive to cut costs, rather than the unexpected surge in oil prices. However the results failed to

grab the enthusiasm of investors, who had expected a stronger increase in the dividend payout in the last three months of 1996. The dividend rose by 0.25p to 5.25p compared with the previous quarter. BP shares were marked down

sharply, ending 27p lower at 694p. Its annual dividend increased by 28 per cent to 19.5p. reflecting the longer-term recovery in the oil giant's fortunes. John Browne, chief executive, said BP had achieved efficiency

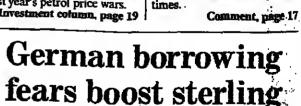
savings and productivity gains worth \$600m (£375m) in just 12 months. The improvement meant the group had more than exceeded its internal targets in the push to reduce costs by \$1.5bn over three years.

Mr Browne said two-thirds of BP's profits rise last year had been achieved through these cost savings, with the remaining third from the boost to oil

Drices. Last autumn the price of Brent crude briefly went through the \$25 barrier for the first time since the 1990 Gulf war. In the last quarter of 1996 BP's average oil selling price was \$23.1, up from \$17 during the same period in 1995.

However, Sir David Simon, BP chairman, was quick to dampen speculation of another "30 per cent year" in 1997. He said: "The board fully recognises you can't continue to grow at those sort of levels ... the board doesn't expect that to be repeated every year.7

The oil price boost helped profits from oil exploration to rise by 41 per cent to £814m in the last quarter of last year. Quarterly earnings from refining and marketing improved slightly to £163m, as profit margins recovered following last year's petrol price wars. Investment column, page 19



much higher than the 29 per cent of GDP that the government is predicting, writes

Yvette Cooper. Closing at DM 2.7458, sterling is at its highest level against the mark since late 1992 and just below the DM2.78 level at which the pound left the exchange rate mechanism.

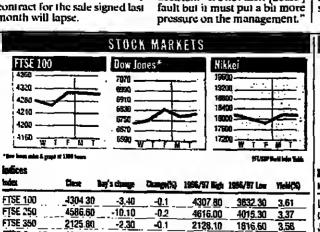
Traders have taken several days to respond fully to the abysmal German unemploy-

The pound rose by more than ment figures released last three pfennigs against the mark Thursday. Although analysis yesterday, as the marketa were quick to sound the alarm reacted to rumours that when unemployment statistics German horrowing will be proved higher than expected last week, the markets are still adjusting to the idea that the German coonomy is even weaker than it had previously

thought. Rumours yesterday that German officials were revising ap-wards their predictions for government borrowing to push the mark down in relation to the pound were denied by the

Finance Ministry.

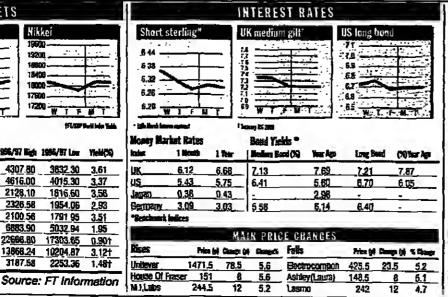
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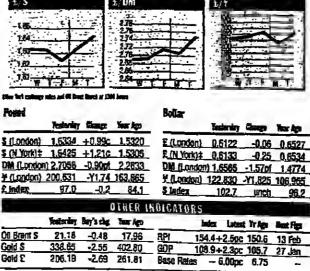


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comising an improved better trains and me tomer intermation The company, beat Brian Souter, has sente that it intends to energy try into trains, But ne days it has lost out; bidding for two high-franchises - the Wal Mainline and Scotka South West Trains on cial director, Peter Com

be quizzed about the lations at a meeting me users' committee by evening. A spokestor the Landon Regionals gers Committee sid t concerned about what pening and so are one gers. We have had and town but such duties MYME HINNED

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COMMENT

'If Unilever does manage to reorient itself away from tired

old, slow-growth Europe to the dynamic developing economies.

we will see the emergence of a quite different sort of company'

FitzGerald's flotilla plots a hazardous course Niall FitzGerald, Unilever's recently appointed chairman, likes to depict his worth perhaps upwards of £5bn. Mr company not as the giant oil tanker it is often

described as - difficult to turn - but rather as a flotilla of nimble frigates all sailing in the same direction with a consistent set of battle orders. For the time being that analogy - intended to convey the impression of a hard-hitting, fast, flexible and entrepre-neurial machine - may owe more to wish-ful thinking than reality. As the world's second largest consumer products company, Unilever is always going to find it hard to deliver anything other than pedestrian, OECD-average growth.

But that's not for lack of trying, and cer-

tainly Unilever seems at the moment to be making all the right noises. The florilla is being firmly set on a course away from the stodgy, low-growth economies of Europe and the US and towards the double-digit growth opportunities of emerging markets. Furthermore a quite substantial part of the flotilla, speciality chemicals, is to be separated and sold. In itself, there's nothing particularly new in this; Unilever has been weeding out and selling off poorly performing businesses for years. Disposals over the past 10 years amount to £3.5hn of sales.

The point about Unilever's chemical ses, however, is they are not poorly performing. In fact they are very much in demand among those at the cutting edge of consolidation in these industries. These are very significant businesses, accounting

FitzGerald's phone has barely stopped ringing since the "for sale" sign was hoisted yesterday morning. This is therefore quite a departure from the run-of-the-mill, ongoing disposal programme.

So what's the point of it? Unilever was faced with a choice. To leave these businesses alone would merely have been to watch their value erode. Unilever either had to commit very substantial extra investment to make them bigger, or it had to sell. Given that some of the businesses were finding they were disadvantaged by the Unilever link (Unilever competitors don't on the whole

like dealing with Unilever companies), Mr
FitzGerald has opted for the latter.
All very logical but the strategy is not without its risks. The difficulty is going to be in finding a replacement for these businesses which is as high-margin. Like many big companies these days, Mr FitzGerald believes the answers lie in the emerging markets of the answers lie in the emerging markets of the Far East, Latin America, India and China, Today these markets account for less than 30 per cent of group sales. He aims to push that above 50 per cent over the next 10 years. That in itself would seem to rule out a big consumer products acquisition in the developed world.

ficulties and pitfalls. But let's give Mr FitzGer
Once in the driver's scat it found that in ald the benefit of the doubt. If Unilever does order to make a decem private sector return slow-growth Europe to the dynamic developing economies, we will see the emergence of a quite different sort of company - one which really does justify the description of a flotilla of fast moving frigates.

Trouble in store for rail franchises

Perhaps it was just bad timetabling that on the very day the Government completed the sale of the last remaining passenger train franchise, the first one it disposed of was nunning into a spot of bother with its regulator.
It is hard, however, to avoid the suspicion that the indecent haste with which the 25 franchises have been sold off is storing up trouble. Last week we had the spectacle of no less than four franchises being knocked out in one day. Anyone would think there was an election on the way.

To describe the franchising process as a "sale" is actually misleading. In the majnrity of cases the only cash that has changed hands has flowed in the direction of the successful bidders, who won the franchises on the basis of how little subsidy they would accept. This appears to have been Stagecoach's undoing wheo it ran the slide rule over South West But how else other than through acquisition can Unilever usefully apply all that money? Investing in organic growth, even in emerging markets, is a path fraught with different femore, and the survey where accepts the property of now intre-survey where accepts the papears to have been Suggeorach's undering when it ran the slick rule over South West Trains, fis hid was indeed impressive—undercutting the BR subsidy by £39m.

manage to reorient itself away from fired old, 'on a declining level of public subside it would have to employ fewer drivers on more flex-ible terms. This it has succeeded in doing but only at a cost of cancelling services and thereby incurring financial penalties.
In situations like these the first instinct of

the Stagecoach chairman, Brian Souter, might be to look for a head and then watch it roll. Unfortunately the obvious candidate has already gone. Peter Field, who used to run South West Trains, was thrown uff the footplate last year and replaced by Brian Cox, a long-time Souter lieutenant who makes even his boss look like a pussycat. This looks like making an interesting test of Mr Souter's management machismo.

Watch Kohl fight for EMU

If Germany can't meet the Maastricht Leriteria in time, all bets are off. The chances of Helmut Kohl persuading the German pub-lic to plump for the cure on the back of a figure-judge are slim. And European monetary

union without Germany is inconceivable.

But the possibility of EMU going ahead at all recedes if the timetable crumbles. Without the credible excuse of a horning deadline, pleary of Europeao politicians will find it hard to persuade their voters to swallow the horrid medicine that a successful cur-

Once in the driver's seat it found that in rency union demands. All in all then, the growing opinion that Germany can't squeeze its economy into the Maastricht corset on schedule should east serious doubt on the prospect that our pockets will jingle with euros in the early years of the next century.

The abysmal German unemployment figures announced last week were only the start of it. This week the markets picked up on rumours in the British media that German officials were revising their deficit forecasts upwards - to 3.5 per cent of GDP rather than the current projection of 29 per cent - to cope with extra spending on unemployment

But hang on a minute. Is this really credible? The German and French governments are as aware as anyone that if the timetable is missed the entire project starts to flake. The German government will do absolutely everything it can to meet the timetable. Watch this space for a supplementary budget later in the year if the public finances descriprate too far.

Not that a budget nip and tuck here and there will be easy. Fiscal tightening while unemployment is so high could be extremely bad for the economy, and deeply unpopular with the German public, not to mention the opposition-dominated Bundesrat, which would have a veto on new legislation. Even so, it is too sooo to close the curtains on EMU. Never underestimate what Chancelfor Kohl and his colleagues are prepared to do in see the European project through.

Government zeros in on £1bn bill for millennium

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The next government will have to spend at least £1bn, equivalent to half-a-penny on income tax, updating civil service computer systems to cope with the millennium date change prob-lem, a minister warned yester-

The surprise estimate set up by the DTI to raise awareness of the date change crisis admitted that most leading companies had so far failed to get to grips with the problem, despite an alarming rise in the cost of recruiting highly-trained

Most computer systems, along with many of the microchips built into industrial and household appliances, cannot cope with the dates after 2000 because they were only built to recognise the last two digits of budeyear Retailers systems are already rejecting products with sell-by dates after the millenmum because they think they are almost 100 years old.

Ian Taylor, Science and Technology Minister, pledged that the civil service would have solved its millennium problem

by the end of next year, the last date which industry experts be-lieve will give organisations enough time to test new sys-

tems. However he predicted central government and the various agencies which pay benefits and levy taxes would need to spend at least £1bn. He also said he doubted the DIT's current estimate of £3m to solve its internal date change difficulties. In the private sector scales consultants are able to command pay of up to £2,000 a day

to manage complex millennium computing projects. Jim Thick-er, who advises the privatised utilities on the issue, said several firms in the industry had alon act work. He explained: "The people shortage is getting critical. those who haven't realised it is at such a critical stage. They will find even middle-ranking con-

sultants charging £1,000 a day."
Stories of consultants stulen in a salary-bidding frenzy have become frequent. The Post Office yesterday confirmed that Dr Nick Fitzhugh, its director in charge of the millennium project, had recently left to join the consultancy arm of accountants Ernst & Young, Dr Fitzhugh

was unavailable for comment yesterday, though the Post Of-fice said he had been replaced.

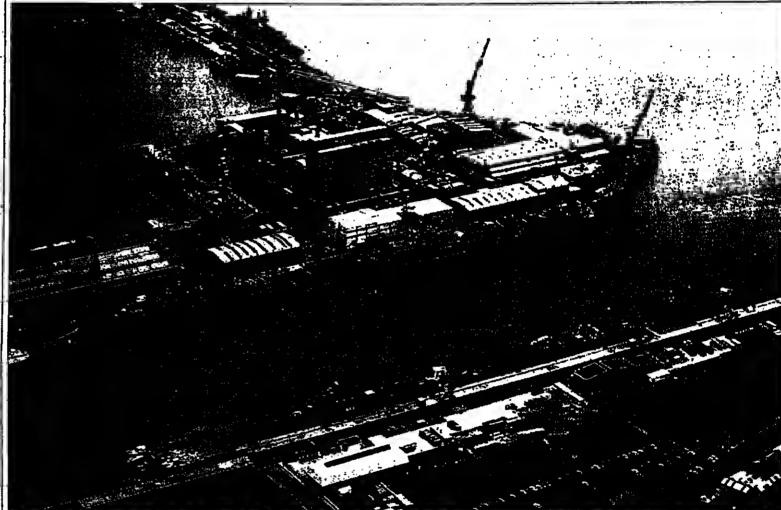
Robin Guenier, head of Taskforce 2000, savaged the plans of leading companies at a news conference yesterday, describme their efforts so far as "totally inadequate". One serious concem is that even if companies sort out their own date change problems, they may end up suprepared. Hundreds of internal computer programmes may need to be altered in big organisations.

Mr Guenier went on "It's already too late to expect a total solution. It is no longer possidon't do this right is the prospect of serious economic, ocial and political difficulties in 2000 and beyond."

However, research commissioned by Taskforce 2000 last November showed just 28 per tent of serior managers were fully aware of the problem, only a small rise from the 15 per cent figure in a previous survey in March.

Worse still, just 9 per cent of organisations had completed an audit to assess how much work needed doing.

Anglo-American consortium buys Devonport Royal Naval Dockyard for £40m



An Anglo-American consortium of engineering and services companies has agreed to buy the Devenport Royal Navai Dockyard in Plymouth (above) from the Government for £40.3m in cash.

The consortium includes BICC, Wier Group

and Halliburton of the US. The trio already owns the Devonport Management Partnership which will continue to provide nuclea refuelling and refitting for Trident and other nuclear submarines into the next century, the Ministry of Defence said.

Some 4,500 people work at the dockyard and consultations with trade unions have been completed. The MoD sold the other main naval support base, Rosyth, to Babcock last year. The engineering union, the AEEU, welcomed

IN BRIEF

• Three Arthur Andersen partners were yesterday called in as administrators to Virtuality Group, the first company to bring virtual reality technology to the stock market. Virtuality's shares were suspended at 68.5p last week pending clarification of its financial position. The administrators said they intended to re-structure the company and focus on its core business of headsets, which recently won a \$10m (£6m) contract with Philips. David Duggins, one of the administrators, said: "The headsets, which are compatible with personal computers and leading games consoles, have a potentially enormous market, thus generating substantial royalty streams in the future."

 Hopes of a counter-bid emerging for Clyde Petroleum evaporated as predator Gulf Canada raised its stake in the oil exploration and production firm to about 27 per cent. Gulf's buying activity comes after recent steep falls in crude oil prices, which may have driven investors into the arms of the bidder. Market Report, page 18

 Scottish Amicable said yesterday in a letter to policyholders that it had had expressions of interest from more suitors than Abbey National and the Prudential, the two which have gone public on their offers. The mutual insurer said it would seek formal offers from all interested suitors and would take independent financial advice during the selection process. The objective was to maximise financial benefits for with profits policyholders, "taking into account both short term and long-term returns."

· Allied Irish Banks denied market speculation that it was interested in acquiring the US banking group Riggs National AIB's results for the year to December exceeded analysts' expectations and the bank said a strong performance in all divisions drove pre-tax profits up by 13 per cent to IR£421m (£412m). But profit-taking and concern about the impact of the planned acquisition of Dauphin Deposit of Pennsylvania for \$1.36bn pulled the shares 20 lower.

• The cable industry will be making profits "as the City understands them" by the year 2000, Stepheo Davidson, chairman of the Cable Communications Association, told MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee investigating regulation. Mr Davidson, who is also acting chief executive of Telewest Communications, said the industry had invested £60n so far and would invest the same again to the year 2000. He said the industry hoped to have a positive cash flow this year.

• Allied Domecq, the distiller and food retailer, said performance in the first half of the fiscal year would be hurt by the strength of the pound, though profit growth would improve in the second half. The strong pound could cut £20m from full-

 LG Securities International today becomes the first Korean member of the London Stock Exchange, when it joins to make a market in Korean stocks on SEAQ International.

• Celtic more than doubled profits in the half year to December. The Scottish Premier League club made £2.1m pre-tax after amortising the value of transfer fees, versus £929,000 in the corresponding period, on sales 46 per cent higher at £12.5m.

Strong sterling casts shadow over Reuters

Magnus Grimond

Reuters, the electronic financial information group, saw profit forecasts sharply downgraded after warning that the pound's strength could severely restrict growth prospects. The shares, which hit a high above 800p in October, slid below 600p at one tage yesterday, before settling 16p down at 626p.
The group calculated that ex-

change rates roling at the end of last year would have sliced £230m off sales and around £100m from operating profits had they prevailed throughout 1996. Sterling strengthened by 19 per cent against the German mark and by 9.3 per cent against the dollar last year.

Peter Job, chief executive, said: "If sterling's strength continues, it will severely restrict prospects for reported revenue and earnings growth in 1997." He also warned that moves to offer attractive prices to encourage existing customers to switch the strength of the group's un-

to Reuters' new 3000 range of information terminals would be a drag on revenue growth this year.
"This will make it difficult for the group to better the underlying revenue growth rate achieved in 1996," he said. Lorna Tilbian, media analyst

at Panmure Gordon, said the impact of the strong pound had prompted her to cut her curreot-year profit forecast from £779m to between £710m and £720m and the 1998 prediction from £915m to £780m. But she stressed that the currency problems could easily reverse. Stripping that out, the group was essentially saying it would match last year's underlying sales growth of 8 per cent.

The downgrades came despite the announcement of a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £701m for the 12 months to December, in line with expec-tations. The total dividend is being raised a fifth to 11.75p, after a final of 9p, and Mr Job said

derlying business meant Reuters should be able to maintain double-digit dividend growth this year. However, the group was silent

on any further plans to pay back to shareholders some of its surplus cash, which rose another £200m to £1.05bn in the year. Last October, proposals to hand back £613m through the creation of an innovative special dividend share were scuppered by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, on the eve of their being given approval by shareholders, when he ended certain special tax benefits for institutions. The group said it would lobby

for changes to bring the UK more into line with the greater flexibility on capital changes allowed in the US. But Robert Rowley, finance director, said: We doo't think our share holders would want us to be in the vanguard of the pack at the moment. We are watching to see what others do." Investment Column, page 19

Conversion of Woolwich wins 95% backing

been decided by the vast num-

her of proxy votes cast in favour of the Woolwich plan, many in

the audience applauded

speeches against the society's

John Stewart, group chief

executive at Woolwich, said:

The three options we consid-

eredwere remaining a building

society and possibly merging

with another, selling the Wool-

E3bn flotation.

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Members of the Woolwich yesterday overwhelmingly backed the building society's plans to

convert in a bank at a special general meeting. At least 1.000 Woolwich

savers and borrowers attended the meeting, called to decide on the society's plans, which will lead to some 2.6 million members receiving free shares worth at least £850 each. The number wich to an existing company: of votes in favour of conversion and converting to a public lim-

Newcastle Building Society yesterday became the latest to close several of its accounts in a hid to stop speculators boping to benefit from a free shares handout in the event of a takeover or flotation, writes Nic Cicutti.

The society announced that its Small Savers and Black Callant accounts, which both conferred membership rights, would close immediately, along with its Nova Plus savings scheme. Instead, the Newcastle will offer deposit accounts, which it said would still offer competitive rates of interest but not entitle mem-

bers to a share of the society. Bill Midgley, the society's chief executive, said: "We are being indundated by speculators whose intentions are purely to reap the rewards of a hypothetical conversion or merger.

amounted to 95 per cent. ited company." He claimed Although the ballot had already that changes in the financial services industry meant that the Woolwich needed the flexibility of access to equity capital markets in order to expand. Selling the society would have imperilled its culture, values and strategic objectives.

> Thomas Lioes, an investing member presently living in Brussels, said that research showed mutuals, whether building societies or insurers, offered better deals for their members than proprietary companies. Why can a mutual keep its

borrowing rates low and its saving rates high?" Mr Lines "It is because it does not have

to pay dividends to shareholders. It is in savers and borrowers' long-term interests that we remain a mutual.

He was backed by several speakers who also spoke out against the Woolwich's £50m

Amstrad takes £6.4m knock

with the then loss-making audio.

Magnus Grimond

10p to 174p.

Amstrad; the computers to mobile telephones group headed-by Alan Sugar, yesterday un-veiled a further £6.4m exceptional charge for its withdrawal from its disastrous foray anto consomer electronics. But analysts were cautiously suggesting the worst may now be over for the group, which has had an unappy relationship with the City for years, and the shares gained

The latest cost comes on top

video, television and fax operarions. At the time, that was said to be the last of the costs associated with the business, but Mr Sugar said it had been difficult to judge what would be realised from the old stock. "We had a job to dispose of £70m of inventory and the £6m is the difference in the margin we thought we were going to earn on that and we didn't earn it." The latest charges meant Amstrad remained in the red for

the end of last year for dealing though losses were cut from £5.4m to-£1.78m. At the operating level, the group turned a deficit of £8.79m into a profit of £1.91m. A maintained interim dividend of 1.25p is uncovered by a loss per share of 2.4p. However, the group's net cash climbed from £91.2m to £112m over the course of the year, representing 69 per cent of shareholders' funds

Mr Sugar said he was still considering ways of handing back cash to shareholders. But he warned that any plan would have of £10.7m of charges taken at the six months to December, al to be thought out carefully.

Affordable Healthcare

Lifetime from HealthCare



market report / shares

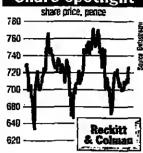
FTSE 100 4304.3 - 3.4

FTSE 250 4586.0 - 10.1 **FTSE 350**

2125.8 - 2.3 SEAQ VOLUME 992.9m shares, 49,723 bargains

Gilts Index 96.34 + 0.02

Share spotlight



the stock market as bidders Gulf Canada scooped up

around 85 million shares. The buying spree, conducted by Cazenove, lifted the Canadian stake to approaching 28 per cent of Clyde's capital.

The struggle has become increasingly acrimonious; last week the Canadians were forced to lift their offer by 15p share to 120p, putting a £495m price tag on the company. The battle is due to

close next week.
PDFM, with 14 per cent, and
CIN Management, holding 3.2 per cent, were among institutions bailing out at prices

fect, reversed Monday's display. For much of the session blue chips were in gentle de-

The fierce battle for control of to shake off their indifference Clyde Petroleum moved into and by the close an 18.8-point fall had been reduced to 3.4 at

Turnover nudged 1 billion shares with the Clyde swoop and busy trading in Asda and Reuters making significant contributions. Little Emerald Energy flared a further 1.25p to 6.5p ahead of its presenta-tion on its Colombian oil

prospects with Seaq putting volume at nearly 45 million. Superstores had an eventful BZW and ABN Amro Hoare Govert were said to be prepar-ing to do the damage. Hoare denied any involvement; nobody was available at BZW to

comment up its mind whether an investment house was about to



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

85 million Clyde shares change hands as Gulf war rages

Tesco was the favourite for individual treatment, falling 11p to 331.5p. Asda was traded 3.75p lower to 112p; Safeway 11p to 346.5p and J Sainsbury 6p to 314.5p.

Oils were weak with British Petroleum's figures offering no encouragement. BP lost 27p to 694p, dragging Shell, results tomorrow, 15.5p down to 1.053.5p. Enterprise Oil tumbled 24p to 648.5p and Lasmo 12p to 242p. Other recent high-flyers, such as British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate and Cairn Energy felt the strain - Borneo lost 41p to

stock market reporter of the year

by figures. The shares closed 16p down at 626p. Before the results they were up 18.5p and then dipped briefly below 600p when the profits were announced. Unilever, the Anglo Dutch giant, was the star of the day. outpacing other blue chips with a 785p gain to 1,4715p following its results and the planned sale of its speciality

group, was another unsettled

chemical side. The food and soap giant's exuberance filtered through to Reckitt & Colman, up 18p to 727.5p. as some observers

Associated British Foods, 15p in the money to 496p, and Cadbury Schweppes, 5p to 482p, were among shares to draw strength from the Unilever experience.

BAT Industries, reflecting hopes of some easing of US litigation pressures, put on 21p to 535.5p and Allied Domecq marched 13.5p higher to 428.5p after a mildly encouraging trading statement.

Utilities were under pressure as windfall tax worries suddenly gnawed at confidence. Thames Water was lowered 17.5p to 665p and ScottishPower 10p to 361.5p. Railtrack's express performance prompted the in-evitable "take profits" advice. Teather & Greenwood sent out the sell signal, leaving the shares just 3p off at 388.5p.

Electrocomponents dipped 23.5p to 425.5p on Merrill

473.5p. PolyMase Pharmacentical, the drugs group, gave up 6.5p to 125p; the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine sold more shares. The latest disposal is 600,000 shares, cutting its stake to 18.47 per cent. The school needs the cash because of government cuts. It says it has "no intention at pre-

sent" of selling more shares. Health shares generally had another string of gains with British Biotech up 10p at 250p. highest since July, and Biocompatibles International making further headway with a 60p jump to 1,350p. Shield Diagnostic gained 18.5p to 303.5p.

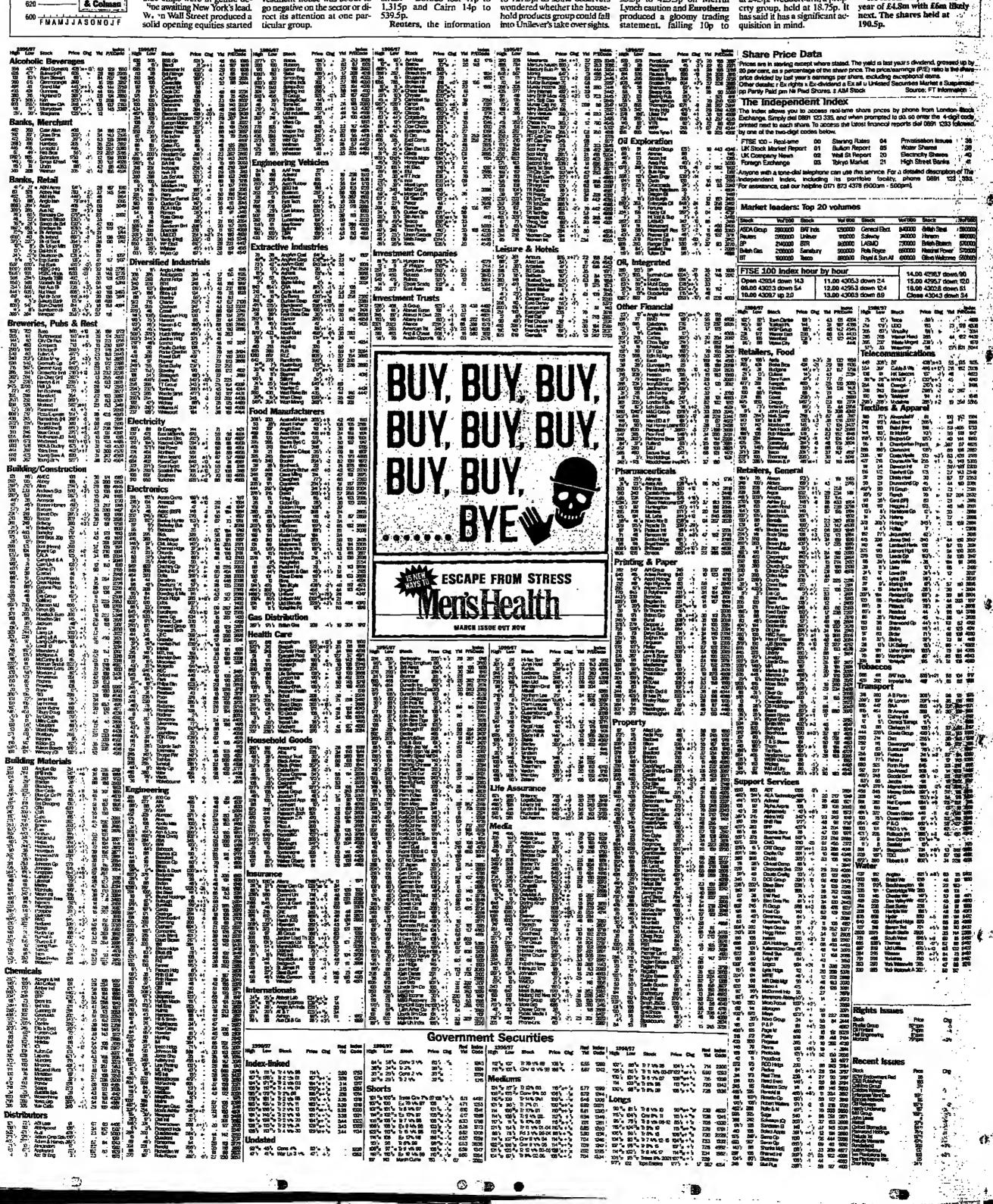
Newcomer Zicor, a Canadian miner, made an impressive dehut. Placed at 18p, to raise £850,000, the price moved to 25.5p before settling at 24.5p. Wedderburn, a property group, held at 18.75p. It Taking Stock

☐ Shares of Po Na Na, running Spanish-style late-night bars, are having an exciting run on Ofex. Priced at 9plant. year they closed 2p higher at a 51p peak. Stockbroker Teather & Greenwood believes profits this year will emerge at £400,000 with £950,000 in prospect next. The company, related to fally quoted Grosvenor Inns, has eight outlets with two more

Action Computer Supplies, one of the few companies recently to come to ... over, is described as "one of the most attractive long-term investments" in the information technology sector by analyst Richard Dyett of Henderson Crosthwaite.

opening next month.

He forecasts profits this year of £4.8m with £6m likely next. The shares beld at



Switch for the footba





Switch on, stump up for the great celestial football spectacular

Picture the scene: Tony Fraher of Singer & Friedlander, who is running the Alan Hansenfronted football investment trust, is being interviewed by Japanese television for a documentary about the dawn of digital television.

Shares of Po Na Na randing Spanish-style late-aight sare having an exciting a on Ofex. Priced at 9p by the they closed 2p higher a sample. Slockbroker

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The interviewer asks the ebullient Mr Fraher for his views on pay-per-view football. Mr Fraher replies that armchair fans should regard the planned electronic season ticket for such services as a "celestial turnsule".

Only investors can decide whether Mr Fraher's got his head in the clouds or if he's on a stairway to heaven.

The Man from the Prn is back - after being declared officially dead two years ago. The Pru-dential has woken up to the fact that, although it has not used the slogan about door-todoor salesmen in its advertising since 1978, an overwhelming majority of the public still think of the phrase first when the company is mentioned.

A new ad campaign kicks off

this Friday with Sir Peter Davis, the company's portly chief executive, posing on television as "the man".

The company attempted to kill off the idea of residential collectors two years ago, when it declared that it was ending door-to-door collections for new business. Despite this, over 2,000 Pru collectors still quietly ply their trade on Britain's doorsteps.

"We want to get rid of the bike clips and trilby image, but keep the idea of the man from the Pru being friendly and helpful," a company spokesman says. "Now all 22,000 employees of the company will have to see themselves as the Man from the Pru. This will regain the confidence of the public in both the company and the industry." Brave words indeed, particularly for the female

staff at the Pro. The phrase was first coined in 1949 when the Illustrated Magazine ran a feature about a Mr Sawyer, a collector for the Pru who did his rounds in PEOPLE & BUSINESS

still a non-executive director.

Mind on higher things: Tony Fraher, armchair footie fan

Hextable, Kent. The prospect of Sir Peter Davis pounding on my front door is certainly an intriguing one.

P&P, the computer services

group named after co-founders Pete and Pain Fisher, is changing its moniker to Skillsgroup. Has the company fallen out with the couple who launched the business, then? Pete Fisher still sits on the board and has a substantial stake in the business. "Not at all," says a Skillsgroup spokesperson. "We have three main brands, and the P&P brand now contributes only a third to company prof-

It still seems a bit odd. Companies usually change their name in an attempt to jettison associations with a less than

its. We felt it was time to re-

flect this in the name of the

share price has risen from

around 20p five years ago to 180p today. Mr and Mrs Fisher launched the company in 1979 as a dis-tributor of computers. They divorced in the late 1980s, and Pam Fisher went off to the US to run a graphics company. Pete, a former social worker, is

So Alex Shearer, the Newcastle striker who captains England against Italy at Wembley tonight, has signed up to pro-mote Jaguar. The lucky sharpshooter gets a Jag XJ 4.0-litre saloon for his troubles. Commenting on the three-year agreement, the Tyneside maestro comments: "Jaguar represents for me the best of British." Strange, since it's owned by Ford of Detroit.

"Twe also seen at first hand Jaguar's modern production lines and met their enthusiastic workforce," Mr Shearer adds. Until recently Jaguar's Coventry production lines were a byword for antiquity. Only since the immentioned Americans intervened have things got better.

Yesterday's news that there are now over 80,000 millionaires in the UK did nothing for Keith Sharp's blood pressure. The journalist and author's fourth book, The Dreamer's Guide to Becoming a Millionaire, poblished 18 months ago, has done less well than his previous books, and sales are now plummeting.
"It's just incredible," fames

Mr Sharp. "I timed this book to coincide with the launch of the Lottery, but the number of copies sold has actually gone down over the last 10 months. I'd given up on the thing, then this report about a record number of millionaires comes out." If any of you want to ease Mr Sharp's blood pressure, you

can still buy the tome, published under the pseudonym James Matthison, for a mere £5.95.

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John Willcock

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Reuters success story slowing

provider of electronic dealing services and information to the financial marforeign exchange worries prompted a wave of profits downgrades.

Certainly yesterday's year-end figures to December contained plenty to suggest that the double-digit growth rates in the business may be harder to come by in future. Pre-tax profits grew 17 per cent to £701m, but the increase was only kept in double digits by a 1.6 percentage point rise in margins to 22 per cent, boosted by foreign currency hedging.

In fact last year's 8 per cent revenue growth slowed to 6 per cent at constant cuthange rates in the fourth quarter and barely moved ahead once the impact of the pound is taken into account. Renters warned the strength of sterling would "severely restrict" prospects for growth in 1997.

But while foreign exchange problems are likely to iron themselves out in the long run, there are clear signs that the underlying business is more mature than it once was. Renters has grown fat on supplying the foreign exchange markets, which its information prodncts and Dealing 2000-1 and Dealing 2000-2 trading systems dominate. Last year, growth in the two dealing systems slowed markedly, dropping from 23 per cent in 1995 to 9 per cent. Last year's quiet currency markets may now be coming alive again as worries about European monetary union grow, but, de-spite the group's optimism, its eventual arrival will hit Reuters' business.

The group is not sitting still. Instinct is at last making decent inroads into the equity trading market. This business, in effect an electronic agency broker that marries buyer and sellers of equities on an anonymous basis, was picked up in the US 10 years ago and has grown on the back of the burgeoming Nasdaq market there. Uoderlying growth accelerated from 34 to 40 per cent last year and revenues of £346m are now just £113m short of the foreign exchange products.

The great white hope is the 3000

range of information products, which combines up-to-the minute price in-formation with extensive historical data on everything from shares and bonds to foreign exchange. Although order levels, at 14,700, are running ahead of plans, Reuters has some work to put into convert its costing cus-tomer base of 200,000 terminals to the new system by the year 2000. So after five years of holding the line on prices, the group is warning that it is now offering incentives to switch, a move which will restrain revenues this year. The group is also still left with the

problem of its £1.05bn cash pile, which kets. But growth has stalled over the in was blocked from distributing to past year. Since October, the share price shareholders last year. Profits of just has slumped from a high of 800p to £710m this year, rising to £780m,

> '30 % BP' ends up red-faced

Sir David Simon, chairman of British Petroleum, is never short of a catchy phrase to describe the oil giant's result and yesterday was no exception. In ebullient mood he described 1990 as the "30 per cent year", since both profits and dividends were up by around that amount. Last year replacement cost profit, which excludes exceptionals, surged to £2.62bn, with the fourth quarter dividend raised 15.25p to 19.5p.

Yet the reaction of the markets left BP's top brass looking more than a lu-tle red-faced. The shares ended 27p lower at 694p as dealers turned sour on the oil sector, thinking that the recent slide in oil prices back in more realistic levels had yet to hit sentiment. The talk from analysts was about "un-

realistic optimism" being punctured, hardly what BP wanted to hear. On the face of it, the figures seems

to bear out this analysis. It was true that BP's fourth-quarter profits of £689m were slightly below expectations, but this was because John Browne, chief executive, had included in the figures discretionary spending in the exploration and production businesses, including \$40m on a new computer system. The 1p rise in the fourth-quar-ter dividend to 5.25p was also mildly disappointing with some analysts look-

ing for 5.5p.
Yet, beneath it all, BP's core business seems as solid as ever, either outperforming other oil groups in terms of its return on capital, or at the very up of the industry's best performance. BP makes returns of 17 per cent on to-vestment, whereas Shell, which reports tomorrow, is having trouble getting

above 12 per cent. Even the fall in oil prices is deceptive. All oil companies had a numper year in 1996 as the price of oil unexpectedly rose to \$25 a harrel. Though the price has dropped since the autumn to \$21, BP's internal target is just \$14, whereas long-term forecasts - always an unreliable guide in the oil business

Reinters has been an amazing success story. From its journalistic origins in the 19th century, the group has developed into probably the world's leading provider of electronic decline are the Provider of electronic decline are that RP's providerious. will turn out to be far too pessimistic. Analysts are forecasting net income of £2.94bn and earnings per share rising from 46.7p to 51.95p. On that basis, yesterday's share price fall could spell a good buying opportunity.

Metamorphosis at P&P

When companies change their name it is usually because they wish to put behind them a past they would rather forget. If that is the case P&P, the computer services metamorphosing into Skillsgroup, ought to have dropped its name five years ago.

That was when the Lancashirebased group slumped into losses after becoming horribly exposed to the cutthroat market of shifting boxes of high-volume, low-margin personal computers. Since then P&P has rein-vented itself by branching into training, consultancy and technical support. The transformation, carried out by the same management team led by managing director David Southworth that took P&P to the brink, has worked wonders for the bottom line and the share price, up from a low of 20p to

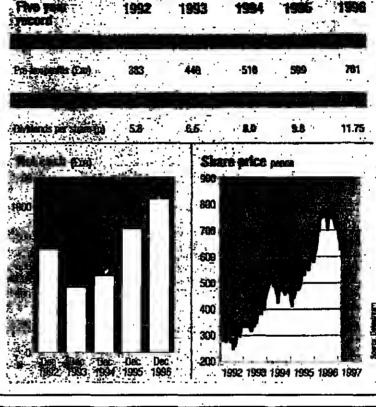
In the year to November pre-tax profits rose by 14 per cent to £14.3m oo sales £2.3m higher at £3.44m. Fully diluted earnings per share advanced 15 per cent to 12.7p while the dividend was lifted by 16 per cent to 3.65p.

The results were helped by first contributions from two acquisitions which chipped in profits of £2.2m un sales of £23.5m. Myriad, brught for £12.5m in April, supplies contract and permanent information technology (IT) personnel to big corporations, while QA offers consultancy, training and IT contracting and recruitment services.

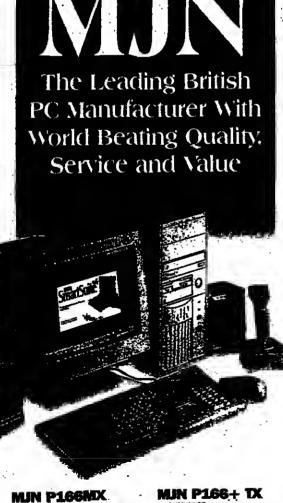
Excluding £13.2m of loan notes issued to pay for these acquisitions, genring is low at 16 per cent, allowing scope for further deals. However, Mr Southworth has clearly learnt from bitter experience, vowing to acquire people rather than product businesses.

The P&P name will live on as a supplier of desktop products and services, which still account for over a third of profits. But the group should benefit from the rush to upgrade computers ahead of the millennium.

House broker Panmure Gordon is looking for pre-tax profits of £17.5m this year, implying a p/e ratio of 12 with the shares up 4.5p of 181p. The rating looks undemanding compared with fancy multiples of other computer services groups like Misys. Good value.



Reuters Holdings: At a glance



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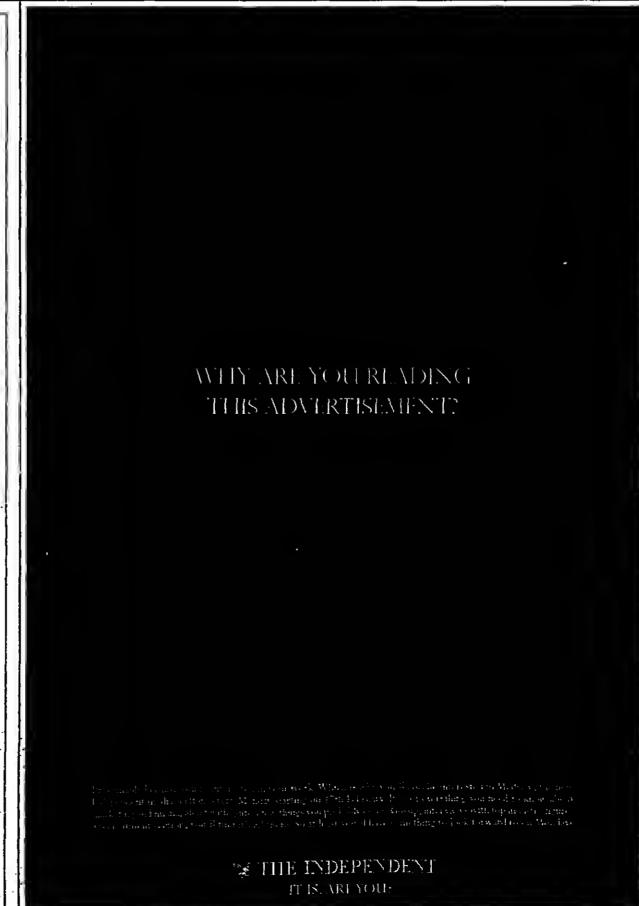
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Hall falls from grace at Bath

Out of the Pilkington Cup, struggling in the league - the club that was once the most feared in union has now sacked an icon. Chris Hewett reports

departure from the crumbling forcess of Bath Rugby Club had been the subject of feverish clubhouse speculation since before Christmas. But when push finally came to shove yesterday, the atmosphere at the Recreation Ground was one of genuine shock and grave sorrow.

Shock that Bath, so strong in their boods of brotherhood and so rooted in the supremacy that hrought them 16 league and cup trophies in the 14 years between 1984 and 1996, should have fallen so publicly from grace, that their transition from the uncomplicated world of amateurism to the unforgiving challenge of professionalism sbould have been so badly

And sorrow? Yes, plenty of that. Hall, a world-class wing forward whose career was cruelly undermined by persistent knee trouble, commanded huge respect from even the most critical of Bath supporters. In bis own way, he was every bit as much an icoo as Jeremy Guscott or Stuart Barnes or Gareth Chilcott.

More impressively still, that respect was sbared by his peers. Tony Swift, the former England wing who now sits on the management board at the Rec, once described his old club-mate as "the best player I ever had the good fortune to play along-side." He was far from alone in

Sadly for those who retain romantic notions of what rugby used to be, it is precisely that closeness that is at the root of Bath's predicament: out of the Pilkington Cup, struggling in the and cup double last May. Hall Courage League and sborn of the swaggering self-confidence out the summer to fend off higand deep-rooted strength of

loodstains on the carpet, character that made them the lear stains on the cheek.

July Hall's imminent rugby history. Suddenly, it is a rugby history. Suddenly, it is a rough world out there, and old pals acts cut no ice now that

money is at stake.

Hall initially landed the team manager's title in the early summer of 1995, before professional rugby was fully on the English ageoda. It was not a hard-headed husiness deci-sion, but an emotional one: forced by injury to forgo his farewell appearance in the Pilkington Cup final against Wasps, he was swept into the joh on a wave of player power - always

Suddenly, it is a rough world out there, and old pals' acts cut no ice now money is at stake

an important element in the Bath fabric - within days of the Twickenham showpiece. His appointment effectively

marginalised two of his most familiar playing colleagues and fellow England interoationals, Chilcott and Richard Hill, who had both taken on high-profile back-room roles at the Rec. Chilcott distanced himself from the club almost immediately and, within a few weeks of the start of the 1995/96 campaign, Hill joined Gloucester as coach-

ing director.
Still, all seemed well when Bath tied up yet another league worked like a Trojan throughspending rivals and hold his

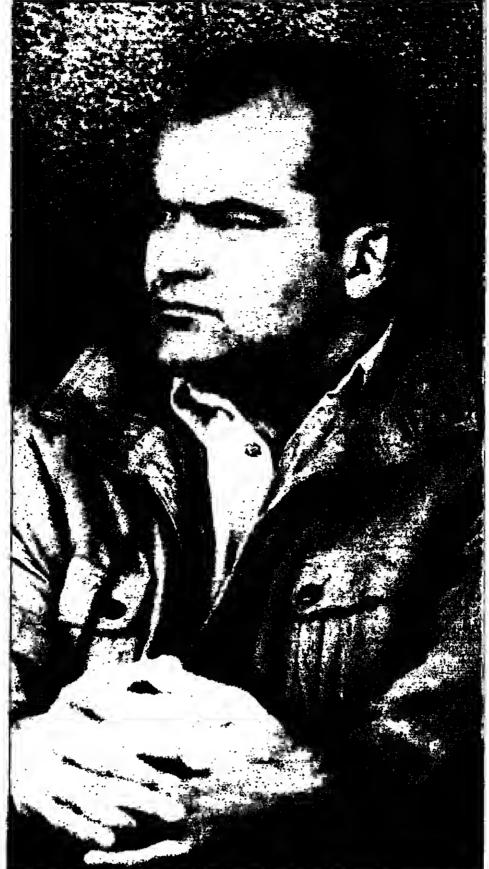
squad together until the club negotiated their own sugar-daddy deal with a local multi-millionaire greetings card tycoon, Andrew Brownsword. Ben Clarke, enticed by a lucrative bid from Richmond, was the only firstteam regular to leave and that seemed to pale into insignificance when Henry Paul and Jason Robinson, two brilliant rugby league talents, crossed the great divide to play alongside the likes of Guscott and De

Neither signing proved espe-cially successful, however, and discontent at Paul's reputed £5,000-a-game deal gathered pace. When Bath were dumped out of the Heineken Cup by Cardiff at the quarter-final stage, rumours of a rift between Hall and Brian Ashton, the chief coach, began to circulate. By Christmas, Ashton had taken extended leave from his post. By early January, he was gone.

That prompted a reshuffle at the top. Brownsword, hardly a rugby man by instinct but keen to protect his initial £2.5m investment, decided to involve himself in the day-to-day running of the club and Swift took over as chief executive with a powerful and wide-ranging hrief. Hall, his position weakened by damaging newspaper publicity following alleged incidents in a city wine bar after a victory over Harlequins in De-

cember, looked vulnerable. The last straw came on Saturday, when Leicester inflicted the most comprehensive defeat oo Bath in a decade. Hall, clearly shaken afterwards hut still prepared to answer the hard questions, fell back on selfdeprecating humour. "It's not the end of the world," he said. "It just feels like it is."

The irony is almost too hitter to contemplate.



Recreation breakdown: The departure of John Hall as Bath's director of rugby yesterday is another blow to the club's confidence

Rowell loses Greening to overwork

CHRIS HEWETT

Jack Rowell, the England coach, has spent most of the season voicing concern over the re-lentless programme of top-level matches confronting interna-tional players and those fears came home to roost yesterday when Phil Greening, his reserve hooker, withdrew from the party to face Ireland in this weekend's round of Five Nations matches. The Gloucester live-wire aggravated already dam-aged knee ligaments during his club's Courage league victory over Orrell of the weekend.

Richard Cockerill, of Leicester, was immediately promoted from the England A front row and will take Greening's place on the bench at Lansdowne Road. With Graham Rowntree a fixture on the loose bead and Darren Garforth, a specialist tight head, on the bench, the clevation of the most talkative Tiger of them all means a national triumph for Welford

Road's ever-popular ABC club. Greening's misfortune was not of concern to Rowell alone. Fran Cotton and the rest of the Lions selection panel have been monitoring his progress for some weeks with a view to taking him to South Africa this sum-mer and with Keith Wood, their obvious first choice from Ireland. on the long-term injury list with shoulder trouble, they could have done without the news.

The Springboks themselves reacted to a serious domestic problem yesterday when Rian Oberholzer, chief executive of the South African Rugby Foot-holf Union, announced moves to prevent a further migration of talent to big-spending clubs in Europe, "International Rughy Board regulation number nine says that any player wanting to play ontside his country has first to be released by his union." Oberholzer said. "We will not be doing that from now on."

If Oberholzer's threat is gen-uine, the South Africans will offectively bar any more leading lights cashing in on the professional free-for-all that has disfigured the English game sines the summer. Three members of the Springboks' 1995 World Cup-winning squad - Prançois
Pienzor, Joel Stransky and Ruei
Straveli - are already plying their
trade in the Courage league,
alving with fellow Test players Steve Atherton and John Allen

GRAND NATH

UNGFIELD

Oberholzer believes enough s enough."We have a responsibility to keep provincial mill club rugby in South Africa. strong, he said, adding that he did not anticipate any challenge to the decision in the courts.

Neil Jenkins, the Wales for hack is to break new ground in his race to be fit for Saturday's meeting with France. The record Wales points-scorer his never worn a gunshield, but the protective device could grain antee he plays in Paris.

Jenkins cracked his cheekhone during Puntypridd's Wolei League victory over Caerphilly last weekend, the damaged area being just above his mouth, "Neil hadly wants to play, and 1 want him to play. Kevin Bowring, the Wales couch, said after Jenkins had been men-sured for a gumbhield. But I don't want him to do say more damage and put himself out for four, six or eight weeks:

Bowring must also make decisions on the centre Allan Bateman, the flanker Steve Williams and the replacement ... though he had good news from the wing leuan Evans, who has recovered from a virus.

Bateman, who underwent knee surgery a fortnight ago, is confident he can resume his: midfield partnership with Scott Gibbs. Neath's Williams had an X-ray on a thumb injury fol-lowing training, while Quin-nell could need a scan after. straining his knec.



LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 FEBRUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	717
2.00	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	APLEMEN	- 1972
2	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	692
2	MR GARY HARROWS	IO STARS	692
5	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	691
	MR WILLIAM BARR	KROJEGER EC.	688
7	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	647
	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	THE RESERVE THE THE PERSON OF STREET	
9	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	683
10		PLATERC	
10	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	478
10		THE GOLL	
13	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	
14. **- 1		CARREST COMMENTS STORY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARTY OF	677
13	MR JOHN COX	SOUTHFUL EC.	
3	MRJ GODWIN	NORVOOD YEP MOP 2800	677
16			
7	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	I MPERIAL BATES	669 87 (1977) (1977)
7	DRHOME	THE PLYING FOXES	60
7	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	669
. 00		LAST GASP GULLIT	367.
20	MR MICHAEL GREGGSON	LITTLE UNS	667
		EDITA.	666
22	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	666
4	MR A MORGAN	KICK START	545
25	MR R RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	664
25	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OKS	
27	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	662
28	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANUEL EC	661
18	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	661
10 .	MR DAVID ASHTON	THE LODGERS	540
30	MR R PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	660
30	MR LAN GROUT	SAR CITY	666
30	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	660
30	MR E HETHERINGTON	BETRIC	660
35	MR I JOLLY	JIMBO'S	459
16	NR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG'S BRICK	658
36	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN		458
36	MR ANTHONY CROW		658
36	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOIM	
46			658
40	MR M CROSLAND	WAGON WHEELS	
	The second secon	OSNEY CLYONS	657
40, _	LAK PANT COMPAN	No perans	657
40	MR D R KENNEDY	HAMMERS UNITED	657
**	MR G MURFYTT	CLEW SHETS IC	656
***	MK C M DOWN	DEALS RESERVES	656
	MR BARRY LEE	LEE MANOR	556
47	MR PETER SHERLOCK	I INCOLNE CO. COLOR	445
7	MR DUNCAN FULLER /	SCER BOYERS	
		KEE'S COWBOYS ALLYE MEN FROM LINCLE 2	

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 26 (Wk 26) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 3 February - Sunday 9 February inclusive. Columo B lists all points scored hefore the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Indepen-

🔫 oday we publish the latest results in our - dent Pantasy Football managers and their teams - appear the following Sunday, in the Independent Independent Fantasy Foothall game, for matches played between Saturday 17 August -Sunday 2 February.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal # 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays = 1 point for a winning goal # 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw - Lose 1 point for a yellow card - Lose 3 points for a red card

on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the fioal. In addition, the highest scoring team cach month will win a pair of tiekets to one of England's World Cap qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES S-Bellere transfer parket

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 FEBRUARY; WEEK 26 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 2 FEBRUARY - 9 FEBRUARY

EB

3 €9 0 0

250 Henry Hansley 2-40 Streeting con 3.40 Furth arts cheep 4.10 W

MUSSELBURY

LIO CONDITIONAL NOCKE

WOLVERHAM

RICHARD EDMONDSON

For the purists, the next, per-

haps only, racing milestone is

the Cheltenham Festival, But

for those who mix concrete, type

letters or put waiting tickets on

windscreens the first gentle

rumbling occurred yesterday.
The Grand National remains

the great televised spectacle of British sport for the masses, and

at the Dorchester Hotel in

London yesterday the recondite

procedure of allotting weights

for the big-race field on 5 April was conducted.

The grand unveiling of the weights has lost its shock appeal

since the Aintree obstacles were

modified and the entries pinned

with their official handicap

marks. The constants that re-

main are the largesse of the

sponsors, Martell, and an ex-

traordinary compere's act from

the former jockey Richard Pit-

3.00 GLITTER ISLE (Map)

3.30 Tickerty's Gift

The buddy-buddy partner the trip or take to the Nation-ship between Martell, with its al fences made betting, even at

5.00 Ras

GOING: Hursles course – Heavy (Soft in places); Chases – Soft (Good to Soft in places).

Litch-hand, sharp undulating course, Run-in of 200yds.

Course is south east of town on B2028, Linguist matter (served by London, Victorial adjoins course. ADMINSSION: All enclosures \$3. CAR PARK: Cab \$3; remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EURONERS: A Tarmell — 11 winners from 32 counces

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH ZUNNERS: A Turnell — 11 winners from 32 numers gives a sonceas ratio of \$4.4% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$30.98; M Pape — 11 winners, 53 runners, 20.3%, \$10.86; E O'Selliem — 8 winners, 50 runners, 15.9%, \$14.75; J Old — 8 winners, 33 runners, 34.9%, \$2.56.

ELEADING FOCESTE'S: E Downwoody — 13 winners, 51 rides, 25.5%, \$2.57; D Bridgwiter — 12 winners, 45 rides, 25.7%, \$22.46; A Magnire — 10 winners, 55 rides, 17.9%, \$21.91; D Gallagher — 8 winners, 65 rides, 13.6%, \$6.15.62.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Amadens (4.30) has been sent 379 miles by E Bart from Senter. North Yorkshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Hundshire; Paprika (3.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles dessa (3.00) & Spy Dessa (3.00) & Spy Dessa (3.00)

2.00 ORPINGTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,225

BETIME: 7-4 Neuroscale, 21-2 Neing-Bongic B-1-Ken de Cologue, 7-1 Prys Se Fool, 9-1 Nerbet Norse, 30-1 Processile, 22-5 Procy Consider, 14-1 Bullevethiden, 38-1 Otte E Mezze, 33-1 Others 1998; Escuringle 4-11 D D Betignier 7-4 Se Proc 14 ser Foots Gelle E Security of the Foots of the Foots Gelle E Security of the Process making most of the Inners of the Process of the Inners of

2.00 Mintanassib 4.00 Shanagore War 2.30 Warner For Players (nb) 4.30 Over The Edge

If Obertholica's things tion, the South Mickey factively har any mark feetively har any mark rights cashing in on the sional free-for-all that figured the Linglish po-the summer. Three nest the Springboks' 1985 Cup-winning squad b Pienaar, Joel Strand Steve Atherion and long Oberholzer belieng is enrugh. We have also

Neil Jenkins, the Wi back is to break new pe

four, Sec or eight week

uzes

the end of the second * secreted more pondels A Fantasy beautiful tome prate price a top take ance. The winner play the action of a quarter fifteer choice, plus their fighest scorner term cat of takers to one of the

lifying earnes at Wember

ES S . He fore transfer DOT 2 PENALIARY . 9 FEBRUS

18.44 NOTE I BAN BANK

Strateli - are alreadyle trade in the Course t shang with fellow less bility to keep private club raight in South strong. he said, adag did not anticipate and to the decision in the

> his race to be fit for se meeting with Frage record Wales points as never worn a combine protective device and antee he plays in Pair Jenkins cracked by have during Pomprish League victory over Co hast weekend the dame being just above his Neil badly wants top I want him to pix the Bowring, the Wakson after Jenkins had bee stered for a gumshidi clear't want him to dea. damage and perkined;

Bowring must alway cisions on the conc. Bateman, the flanke Williams and the repor etility Korward CragOc though he had godge the wing Jenan Evange recovered from arms Bateman, who mis

KINCE SUITECTS II OF THEME confident he can long, midlield partnerhow? Cables, Neath's William X-ray on a thumb as lewing transport , nell could need a caparaming his knee.

Sureiny, in the Independent III Top 50 League table of aday and again on Suid previously published

Uttorester, he will apprecise to this tenting ground and will have no problems on the stamina front. Harbert Hense was in the process of training a good first race over hundes when failing bor out in Cheerial Appect's race as the last meeting fere. Ean De Cologhe also did well on his hunding how, this hing third to Matanassab's stablemate Pornme Secret at Plumpton in what was a clearly good for that operate. He should again have the bearing of fourti-placed keyr Conster and Clock Watcherskie (fills). Travalle, who made a whing of fourti-placed keyr Conster are clock Watcherskie (fills). Travalle, who made a whing storm in a Warwick novice insufficient recently, taces a stiffer test today, but Waten Doiste, some-up to Boiver here last year and a close sect to Hamilton House in the Free Hendisop Hundie at Consterior to his about which in well deaths a flux-mostly absence. Selections MITANASSIB 2.30 SANDERSTEAD MADEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 7f Pennity Value £2,729

phistication and luxury (getting legless with style), and Aintree. where the streets are not paved with gold but rather last night's veneer of fish and chip wrapsporting sphere, anywhere.

ping, is rather odd. Martell, however, do not remain in business because they dispense money unwisely. Much of their product has already found its way down the neck of

Differences of opinion are what

keep a punter's heart pumping,

and it is not so long since the publication of the National

weights was like a squirt of caf-

feine into a major artery. Every-

thing about Amtree was so

unique that questions of

whether a chaser would get

cluded) and there is always the promise of a BBC coverage which is hard to match in any

Pitman does his host's job regularly and with a consistently bawdy theme. His main track aiways seems to be to belittle his former wife, Jenny, who, unlike him, has actually

almost two months' distance, an

But no longer. In a general sense, the changes which have been made to the National

course since a series of partic-

ularly unpleasant fatalities to-

wards the end of the 1980s

have been essential, since the

race was coming to be seen as

unnecessarily bloodthirsty.

From the long-range punter's point of view, though, the state

of the going on 5 April is now

interesting proposition.

branded image of French so- the relevant parties (the Fourth won the National on two occa-Estate are mercifully not ex- sions. We have probably had enough of Pitman behaving

> The more serious raratter this year concerns the Liverpool management effort's to get as many horses as possit sie into the handicap proper. On ly 27 went to post last year, a figure which will be exceeded in A pril as the vived the Somme by either skill

by far the most important variable, and since receipt Nation-

al fields have faced broth fast and

bottomless ground, few would

blame us for saving a my bets un-til sticking plasters have been

applied to the wount is of Chel-

could easily not rise at all - if

stone - or alternative ly shoot up by a stone or more. T im Forster,

A further imponde rable is the

entry qualifications - which barred such as the good stayer Killeshin last season - have been relaxed.

GRAND NATIONAL WEIGHTS: The search for this year's winner starts with the publication of the burdens the beasts must bear

First lady of Aintree absent but not forgotten

Progressive Maamur makes early sense at 25-1

possibility that they weights can be hearded on the first cir-

Dublin Flyer lines up a under 12 potency of Becher's,

These days the Liverpool factor has limited significance. In olden times, an Aintree specialist was the equivalent

Dublin Flyer's trainer, was typ-

ically non-committal yesterday, and insisted that "no decision

will be made until after the

Cheltenham Gold Cup". Even

if Dublin Flyer makes it to Liv-

erpool, however, he is still es-

sentially a two-and-a-half miler.

and the old belief that stamina

cuit has vanished along with the

upset some of the firebrand dodderers, who presumably eujoyed watching the axle on the abattoir wagon scraping along the tarmac on the way out of the course, but it has also attracted the connections of the more

talented horses. It remains, however, a devil-

from Forster's string which has

provided three previous Ne-

tional winners. Again, the train-

er refuses to be drawn, but Maxmur, winner of the Ritz

Club Chase at the Festival last

year, may prove to be the best of them. "Maamur has been

waiting for some decent ground

and if conditions are suitable.

he will run at Warwick on Sat-

Of more interest - not least urdsy," Forster said. "As for the because the odds are longer is Grand National, it is too early

ry 12st (from 11st 10th) and the modification of the fences has our information for the race will be provided by the Cheltenham - trainer, would commit his hors. Festival, and even then a supping race will militate against future success.

The short-priced horse to ignore at this stage is probably Coome Hill, who is prepared on a heach in Cornwall, which is where the links with Red Rum ish race in which to have an end. Even after a lavish lunch top-weight will now heave to car- or God's grace. The recent ante-post bet as the most seri- and the accompanying liquids,

a race for him at Cheltenham."

out, but since he is effectively

just 8lb higher for a seven-

length win at the Festival, Maa-

mur is both fairly weighted

mment after recent rain, one of

the few whose odds could con-

tract significantly. For these

who want to step in at this stage.

the 25-1 offered by Ladbrokes

Martell Grand National Handicap Chase (4m 4f)

and, with his seasonal debut im-

Fast ground might rule him

the remaining three entries to say, though I will try and find

no further than the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Walter Dennis, Coome Hill's

Lo Stregone, who would have been farourite last year befor contracting something close to a tropical disease on the eve of the race, and Encore Un Peu. Martin Pipe's runner-up by months ago, are both well fancied as an other race has been contemplated for them since the Easter Binny emerged.

However, the press beam before Liverpool is bound to centre on Jenny Pitman, who has entries for four horses and a second hasband in 1997. The grand dame of British racing was ill yesterday, but her prospective blushing govern. David Stait, was available. Jenmy is upset she can't go to the weights tunch as she teels she has let people down," he said. "She has got this flu which is going round - although there or. one or two pressinen she wouldn't have minded passing it on to." And an ex-spouse toe.

two dute over timber so far has only been proderate but this stantant lest at applic bond to.	10 ZIP3 NORMEN INTEREST (ST) Fon, Rooth C Weston 6 10 4
proxement. The other numers look moderate at best. Martin Pipe's Roll Again and Nigel	11 UDS THER BOLD (IA) I Returns N Consequent Street 4 10 0
Twitten-Davies' Greg's Profiles have shown lette in a single bumper start seach but have	12 ATTS AND DESCRIPTION CONTINUES NOT A 100 18 Years A
place prospects in this company. So their Paprillia, who accord up last mas for being best- en just a head by Spring Hobe at Newton Abbot, although site needed her , first two turs.	14 00F0-0P MESS MOUSTE (72) /8 & 8 Partiers D Gorde 6 10 0 W Manufacture
en just a head by Spring Habe at Newton Abbot, although she needed her, first two turns.	- 14 doctoral -
Charlie's Folly and Forest NM have shown a little ability over tember, or yill as-high like	Monimum weight, 10st, True handicap weight, Alles Materie Set Set
Lovely was backed at long odds in a Hereford melden chase on his debut. In this country	BETTING 4.1 Tutal law, 5.1 Lant Rookie, 71.2 Regimen British 6.1 South's Burling, 7.1 Mr. Man in
the fell at the first) and has Admin Magues in the saddle.	BETTING: 4-1 Total Joy, 5-1 Loui Rochie, 21-2 Rockney Bridge, 6-1 Egally's Burling, 7-1 bly Man in Dandalle, 8-1 Fountainsvage, 8-1 Shanegers Worsler, 12-1 Amber Weg, Wed Lighter, 14-1 others
Selection: WARNER FOR PLAYERS	1996: Indumy's Gift 6 10 13 M America 5-1 G J. Mooret 16 ren
	PORNI GUIDE
3.00 OXTED NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £4,9150 added	The application of binhers century worked in Equity's Darling's favour at the last meet
2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,997	ing, the more consenting to jump off and beating Lady High Shariff a length and a haif. The
1 4434-21 QUITER SEE (12) (C) (Mrs Temptry Plengton) J Calloud 7 11 10	players are on again put these unot be every chance that she will reven to earlier behav-
2 OFFOO S ALDREY BLUE (20) If Lines Andrew Toront 8 11 4	lour, such as when virtually refusing to race in Floriey Wood's Plumpton race. Tetal Joy fire
3 10/5213- ANGELO'S DOUBLE (964) U Herwood) R Busier 9 11 4	lahed third to Flaxley Wood, beaten about five lengths, a good first effort in a handicap and
4 UF3P24 COUNTRY NEETER (23) IS 1 M Ryall 8 Ryal 9 11 4	he can open go well, with Richard Durwoody in the saddle once more. His big weight may
5 40 MDIAN DELIGIT (\$12) Lice & Journe Returned M Pros 7 11 4	anchor him, though, and preference is for ROSKEEN BRODGE, who was placed in a cou-
6 00 LDCX CALL 9(2) (77) 6# H Lillag A Hotts 8 11 4	ple of points in tretand. He ran his best race in this country lest time to be third to Arisi Sort
7 372F3P harroll 1927 (16) (R 16 16 16 17 17 17 18 18 18 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	If at Follestone, beaten eight lengths (Equity's Darling tailed-off), and thins off the same mark. The booking of Norman Williamson is encouraging, Stierragore Warrior, an encouraging third
8 PIDMEREDGE Pleathereold Stuty P Chammags 9 11 4B Pleatho	to Scotby over a longer trip at Newton Abbot last time, may not be suited by this shorter trip
9 US-22FO ARPENILOCH (21) Oiles M R Toylog Andrew Turnell 8 11 4	and finished behind Roskeen Bridge in an Irish point-to-point, He must concede my selec-
10 SOCIAD STATEMENT CARLINGS E Paris) Mess 5 Edwards 8.11, 4	tion 17th today. Footelnessage, fourth of 14 to Top Javelin at Newton Abbot, was a dis-
11. DISPY SP SPY DESSA (15) (Mis Particle Care) 4 Newcombe 8 11 4	appointment in River Wye's Stratford race last time, while lightly weighted Amber Ring does
12 1A2525- WITH IMPURITY (300) (Short Lineary & Bloodstock Col P Nictobs 8 11 4 D Beldgreeter	not look all that leen and is an unknown quantity on the ground. Lord Hoobie has ability
11. OFFY-SP SPY DESSA (15) Dies Permit Carry & NewCombe 8 11 4	but will do well to dely 12st, while My Man in Dundwik was pulled up in Equity's Darling's
- 25 decileed -	race having won a Heroford seller and may also have enough weight.
MESTARIC 6-4 Cities Inle, 7-2 Augulo's Dochie, 5-1 With Impunity, 9-1 Reeshiech, 12-1 Shymatic,	Selection: ROSKEEN BRIDGE
18-1 Planskyldge, 20-1 Country Respec, 25-1 others. 1998: Fools Errand 8 11 4 8 Cition 12-1 (6 Raiding 6 cm	
1998 1998 Emino 8 11 4 8 Canon 12-1 is tenong 6 dan FORM GUIDE	A DA R E SASSOON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H)
With likely main market mats Angelo's Double and With Impunity both haveing a year's ab-	
sence to evercome, GLITTER ISLE should follow up his recent chosing debut " success, Josh	£1,350 added 3m Penalty Value £1,110
Office a number, a praction over hordes, was always well up there in the t wo-mile powice	1 11/U19:- AVOSTAR (644) (CO) (R G Russell) Mes C Seunders 20 12 7
many or the last married have and owns home two bounds of Gardin. He steam to	2 OP4020- FRANKO (301) (D) United Challengs Partnership) Mrs O Grand 32 11 7Mr W Goulett (7)
event at the last precting here and came home two lengths clear of Gendo. He stayed two and a ball miles well over hardles, so that longer trip is very match in his & your, Angelo's	3 #52934 FIFTH AMERICANENT (697) (CD) (Alex Visions Linders C March 12 12 7 Mr A Holes (7) R
Double made un avo a smart stantal handran hunter lad season, whating am with a third	4 OPSP/P. GAMBLING NOVAL (2005) (U) (Mrs T Preshed) Or P Prinched 14 12 7 or P Prinched (7)
Double usede up and 8 smart staying hendicap hundler lest seecon, whating tup with a third to Seeking Cash at Accor, and centainly has the ability to win races over to rece, So does	5 21/1511- HOLLAND HOUSE (201) (CD) (E kingli) P Charmings 11 12 7
With Impunity, who was highly toed in nowce chaese last season but ran creditionly on a few	B PHY101: OVER THE EDGE (272) (D) (Christopher Sportung) C Sportung 11 12 7, Mr B Sportung (7)
occasions, including when 11 lengths second to Nahithen Lad at Warvick - this first run for	7 362360 VICOMPT DE VALMONT (\$19) (Nos Bodget Micholis) P Hicholis 12 12 7 Mr T Inflichet (5)
Paul Nicholfa, The testing ground will suit, Reeshipoh is re-equipped with third binkers that	B U4/23/2- AMADEUS (FR) (303) (Robert Barr) Robert Barr 9 12 0
saw han finish a close second to Porphydos at Worcester in November and, a kinough seem-	8 D25(F)- CASTLEBAY LAD (828) (Michael Appleby) Michael Appleby 1A 12 0Mr M Appleby (7) 10
ingly but of his depth, could sneek into a place. Andy Turnell also runs the a meiden Silp-	To de constante de la constant
anulic, a first-fence faller at Unioxalar on her chasing debut. Plumbridge i rooked good in	11 2/1/F21- COLUMBAL KELLY (303) (D) (C Covery Record) Mrs 0 General 9 110
vancing and finishing a close second from two starts in point-to-points lest season and is	13 0,0000 ELL GEE (200) Pout Townsley Mrs P Townsley 7 11 9
worth keeping an eye on for the future. Selection : GLITTER ISLE	= 13 decired =
	HETTHG: 7-4 Holland House, 7-2 Colonial Kelly, 4-1 Vicempt de Veissont, 12-2 Over The Juge, 8-1
3.30 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925	Parastar, 14-1 Fifth Amendment, 16-1 Amendeus, 20-1 Farings, 25-1 others
added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,201	1996: Holland House 10 11 7 Mr C Vigors 2-1 (P Chamings) 6 ran
1 5-54431 TICKERTY'S LEFT (12) (CO) (Kingson) G L Moore 7 12 D	FORM GUIDE
2 13111/6 Naryer Reed (5) (D) (6 Post) I Hed T 112R Dun-oody	HOLLAND HOUSE was left with an easy task in this race last year after a couple of his man
3 10-45 MINISFORD HILL (125 (St. Horse Power) P Hotos 6 10 7	rivals took the wrong course. He did nothing wrong afterwards, fixishing a creditable fifth to
4 11-F YOURG AT HERET (64) Ledone Outer Form 124 M Hoyes 8 10 5 D.D Skyrmin 6 0F-3442 AUGUST TWELFER (13) ODC 0'Exten) O 0'Dicen 8 10 2 D.D.D. Skyrmin	Elegant Lord at Chaltenham, beating Cobme Hill a head at Chapstow and landing a marathon
6 OF-3442 AUBUST TWELFTH (13) OC O'Brien) O O'Brien 8 10 2	race back at Cheltenham by seven lengths from Hernes Harvest (Paringo tailed-off). Hol-
8 450-22P P. (2000) (181) (M D Branco) K Controgram-Brown 7 10 1	tend House has the ground to suit and should get the season off to a good start. Colonial
= 6 declared =	Kelly got only as far as the third in the Cheftenham Forhunter but enjoyed a successful sea-
HEITHER: 6-4 Holorty's GML, 7-2 Winsford Hay, 9-2 August Twelfth, 5-1 Phyper Roos JL, 21-1 El Gran-	son otherwise, winning a point at Horseheath and hunter chases at Newbury and Southwell
de, 12-1 Young At Heart	in addition to finishing second to Wudino in a novice event at Aintree. He will win races this
1996: Hodansk 7 11 11 8 Fermu 3-1 (M Marganck) 8 san	season. Over The Edge, whose of three points and two hunter chases, at Sandown and
FORM GUIDE	Folkestone, test year, has the advantage of a recent run, having been a close second to
Course specialist TICKERTY'S GIFT regained the winning thread at the last," meeting here	Sunny Mount in an open at Marks Tey, Out and our stayer Vicompt De Valmont should do
with an eight-length success from Shepherda Rest and can go in again. Successful four times	well in this sphere and is another well suited by testing ground. Selection: HOLIAND HOUSE
here lest sensor, including on this card, Gary Moore's seven-year-old remain'in fairly treated on a 3th higher mark than lest time. Four of Trokerty's Gat's wars, including 6's a latest, have	
been over a longer top, but he won over the distance lest March - by two ler lights from Ne-	5.00 LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS
meste, making most - and the most exportant factor is that he again has the ground in his	H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £1,319
favour. Lightly-raced Wilesford HMI shaped with promise on his handicap deligut at Touces-	1 1 CURRADUFF MOLL (99) (John Duggan) N Tession-Daves 6 11 6
ser recently when a close tifth to No More Hassle and can stop fitter, as he was returning .	2 BROOK BEE The Seam Partnershot N Caselee 5 11 4
from a 10-week break then. Nilpper Reed, who won four of his last five starts for Red Simp-	3 0 DON'TCALLINEGEORGE (13) (H) Jarves J Best 8 11 4
son in 1994-95, weakened quickly from three out in Nashwile Star's Bangor Frace on Fixley	4 HOLD MY SAND (Dave Doon) P Charmys 6 11 4
after making all last season. Richard Dunwoody notes today and this from ru may take	5 MONMOUTH WAY DATE V RW Miler) P Charmings 5 11 4
on Tickerty's Gift for the lend. Young At Hourt, successful on his hunding by aw back in Au-	8 · MURILAF (Mrs Ann Woodrow) Mrs 4 Woodrow 5 11.4
gust 1994, tell early in Most Equal's Hontington race in December on his I that start since	7 PAPENTENCE (NZ) (W H Uller) A Hobbs 5 11 4
and tooks up against it here. So does El Grando, who has not raced since Serbtember, while	B 4 RASAK (21) (Lady Hernes) Lady Hernes 5 11 4R Democdy
August Twellth has been rather disappointing since a good return that at Virindson. Selection: TX EXERTY'S GET	9 32 ROYAL POT BLACK (12) (BF) (A Logo) P Hooks 6 11 4
SCHOOL IN CAPITY'S CET	10 68 BESE GREY (19) (Mis Gai Deldey P Hedger 6 10 13 M Clinton (7) 11 OVERBURNING (R T 8 Marghana) A Haney 5 10 13 M Sections
WARDI RECUEM MANDARD IN THE TOTAL OF THE TANK	11 OVERBURNING OF T 8 Months A Harry 5 10 13 M Richards 12. 3 CRACKON JAKE [12] (Erne Houghport) Moore 4 10 8 M McParland
4.00 WARLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,1575 added	13 FM SEC (FR) (A A Ring) A Jones 4 10 8. S Carrier
Zin 31 Lillyus Petiatry Value 22,250	14 O FRED MOTH (21) (Antary Charles Brown) T Hard 4 1D 8 D Skyome
1 4-0335 LORD ROORLE (20) (Om Findon Partnership) J Gdood & 12 0	2 16 declared -

		Horse (Intervieur griff) Dunite Figur (1 (rester 12st)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
:		Dublin Figur (1) projet 1251	_ 16-1	16-1	317	. 13.1
		Master Outs . Howy 11-110th	, Wi 1			28-1 25-1
: 1		Couldn't Se Bottor of Broky 11 ction Young Hantler & 1 (tages, 10 ct 170)	. 25-1	25-1		25·1
		Sheeting Stant .: Markets 1027 life	33.1		20.1	40-1
١.		Finishing Steel J. Mothers, 1992 Life Challender De Luc. M. Ppe, 1949 kb Neighten Lud. Mr. J. Person (Corrett)	33-1		79.1	25.4
. 1	1	Nation Lad - Mr. / Particy Invite	33-1	29.1	33-1	33-1
•		Coome Hill of Denne 1/3st6th/	141	16-1	16-1	:4-1
-		Manner (1 Forston 10447) Androik Express th Herderson 1044/hi Ring Of The Colon (A.L.) Moure 1044-	20/1	. 71	25-1	. 311
		Australi Express in Henderson ((KIAIN)	.33.1	40-1		33.2
•]		Idea of The Calco IAL T Mount 104'44	_50.1	13,7	10 t 1 eS	. 79 t 33-1
		Son Of War P McDern, 10stahi		711	1.1.1	33-1
۹		Le Spregone (1 1ste 10st4th) Idiote Venture (4 O'Roen 10st 38)	50-1	44.1	50-1	20-1
1		State Bay C Procks 1043-0	33-1	35.1	,	25.1
•		Feathered Gale JA 1 7 Morre 1131.3thi	33.1	33,1	33 1	
àl		Arre Asson IN Carricho (0s120)	20-1	25-1	11.1	25-1
0		Belowest King iP Northells 1(18) 1(h)	_25-1			TQT
1		Backboard Bounce of Robant (N:14)	21-1	33-1		33-1
:	ı	Bishops Hall (H De Bromhead 1041th)	33.5	33-1	40-1	40-1
<u>,</u>	1	Encore Un Petr (M. Pipe 10st)	16-1	16-1	14.1	74.1
۱ ٔ	1	Lord Oyllogo (S. Brockshau-19-1130) Wylde Hide (A. I., 1 Atoore 1941 130) Tartan Tyrant (G. Pichards 29) 1 30)	16.1	20-1	16.1	16-1
ΕĮ		Wylde Hide A L 1 Stoore 941 13tbi	25-1	25-1	.49.1	20-3
. I		Tartan Tyment (G Pichards 9:) 13th)	31.1	1	4□1.	50-1
'	{	Fundant (R Barber 194137)	_31.1	(14.1)	!!! 1	50-1
. 1	1	Dextra Dove Smon Fate 19:12374	_75-1_	~2% <u>_</u> {	33-1.	. 33-1
i	ı	Actorio (Mrs.) Bearral (9e) (3th)	50-1	371	33,1	.43 1
9	Į	Peperior Finish (Nr. 1 Primary 9st 13th)	25.1			33-1
1		Commercial Artist (N Gaselee 9st 13th)	50-1	100_1	100-1	100-1
j	1	Sibton Abbay (G Hubbant/Ost 11(b)	98-1			66-7
1	ı	Smith's Band (Mrs.) Pdman Sci 10th	 	33-1		20.1
1	i	General Command (G Rockards 9:480h)	33.1	~		25.1
! !		Midnight Caller (N Chance/9ct8th)				
1	ı	Brown Dies IN Carolog Octobs	50.1	40.1	66.4	34.34.2
į	1	Go Buillette [] O'Shea/Sasthi General Wolfe (T.Forster/Sat8hi	33-1	33 1	31-1	40-1
ı١	1	General Wolfe of Forster 9st8hi	26-1	25-1		25-1
7	Į	General Pershing ID Nicholson 9:18/bt	_50-1	42.1	50-1_	50-1
1	ı	Glemot M Bailes/9cr7lbi	86-1	50-1	66-1	66-1
٠l	ı	Valient Warrior (1.) Hammand 9516(b)	50-1	50,1		66-1
?	- 1	NR: only 40 can run. Other entries and	best n	rices: Did B	deten is furnis	Chafallor
:	ŀ	66-1 (C, L); into The Red (A):s M Revele IT Easterby/9st3th) 50-1 (L, T); Time For	A Rue	E O'GALAN 95	: 100g000 10	H' L' J):
4	ı	Sir Peter Lety (t.1 Hammond 9:13hi 66-1	(f); Ki	Bootson H Alla	mer Stant	0-1 IL);
il	- {	Pashtovystam 50-1 (L. 1); Inne for Sir Peter Lety (il Hammond 9:13h) 66-1 (Pashto N Henderson 9:13h) 66-1 (L. T.; (C. H. L. T.; James Pigg il Nichols 9:1 Moore 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go Go Go Galland Nove 9:13h) 66-1 (H. L. T.; Go	3bi 10	0-1 (C, L, T)	Resure 54	ALT
١	ı	THE IN THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO	io ir ra	DESCRIPTION OF	P-1 ICE DESCRI	MY DUE
; [Į	I I C House Court and a 100 to Mouthorn Di	121	Calamater C. II	40-1 II TO I	Davenne
١	J	Boy G Richard; 9st 33-1 (H, T); All For I (Mrs. J Parman Set 12th) 66-1 (C, T); Turni Sister Stephenie (fi Naccourt Set 12th) 66	ing Trix	ID Mahahar	18:11:0/ 50-1	L (C. L);
۱	1					
, 1	ŀ	Nenois 8st 2th 100-1 (C, L); McGrego Evangelica (M Pro-Est 10b) 100-1 (T); B	The T	bird of Rich	15. S.112:01 5	0-1 (L):
1		Prangolica (M Proc Estino) 100-1 (I); B	66-1 (H	L Tr Botty	r Satirbi 66. s Sovil, Sol.	34.1.C
1	l	Tr. Mosthmenswig 10 Nichelson 881 1061 100-1 (r. 18 1061 100-1 (r.	35.20bi	50-1 IL); Da	AYDE BOY IN	larian
	ı	C Hardings Rev 7th 100-1 (C): Finebthecast	IC Err	ton Balabi 10	0-1 C. L TI: A	taciners
		Mikror IN Twiston-Davies, Est7(b) 100-1 (T T); Christmas Gorne IN Gaselov-8st7(b) 50	k Shee	Ability IC N	lann 5.1. (n) 1 0	00-1 IL
Į		L. C.: Full Of Onts, INJUS H WINDYLESSING	1 56-1 I	IJ: River Boo	MINET IL LAND W	X2500
1		66-1 (C. L. T); Camelot Knight IN lurat	on David	Septido 10	0-1 (C, H, L,	n; krish
ı		the Address i Fragoratissismi 100-1 (C	L): Mi	goni Beach	MITTER No. 10	100-1
		(C, L, T); Samine IP Hobbs Est2151 150-	7 IC' C	Plastic 5p	accage d Uld	1 1
		Mess V Williams, 8st2lb1 200-1 (C); Brave	Bucca	noer is lum	al Martino 66-1	C. H.
I	Ī	C); Spuffington Galord Set 150-1 (1);	SUPPER	ic Classic it	is Life touries.	21.17
		200-1 (L. T); Front Line (J.) O'Nest, 7:21.30	150-1	(L. T); Majic I	Colo of Electri	71_d-
1		250-2 (C. 1); Over The Stream (Street, Miss V Wilgers, St.200-200-2, (C); Brave L. 1); Tag Of Peace (G Balder); Str. 150-3 (C); Sparificgron (J Glord Str. 150-3) (L); 200-1 (L, 1); Front Line (J J O'Nel-7:2130) 500-1 (C, 1); Greenfill Reffles (Mrs. 1 V William Hill; L. Lacthrokos, T. Tote, No. Str., No. Carellinet, Lieropale, V Woman.	n-ruma	na: Jodani,	Rough Quest	Mony
1		and in the state of the state o				
1		Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3	, 4 14	er, samu	3 de 2	
_	_					

RACING RESULTS

LEICESTER

LECESTER
2.00:1. MAGGEURGE (A MAGGEUR 1-3 Ltc.)
2. Salior Jim 4-1, 3. Howgitt 12-1, 8 ran.
18. 5, 8 tee, Pestreyon, Tota: £1,70: £1,30.
£2.00, £2.00 Dasi Forecast: £4.70. CSF.
£8.21, 11-CSS. £9.4,19.
2.30: 1. APACHE PARK (DG. Stephen 1-1):
2. Tamescocks 12-1: 3, Take 7-1 fav. 19 ran.
1%. 13. (M. Sheppant, Ledbury). Tota:
£17.60: £1.50, £2.80, £7.50 Df. £101,10.
CSF. £158 32. Tro. £273.10
2.00: 1. JUST BRUCE (N. Gaiel 7-1): 2.
Frank Knows 100-1: 3. Charife Parrot 9-2
11 ran. 4-5 fa Eccha (del 2. 17. 4%
£14adh Royston, Totas £1.50 £1.30, £8.10
£1.40 DF: £15.20. CSF. £3.2 91. Inc.
£144.20

Ediph-hand oval coonse with tight turns.

Ediph-hand oval coonse with tight turns.

Course is 5m cast of Ediabargh on AJ. Bas hak from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSEON: Cash \$12; Tamessells \$6 (OAPs and su-employed \$3). Accompanied under-16s free. GAE PARK: Prec. 2.40 ANDERSON STRATHERN NOVICE HCAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m ELINERSED FORST TRUE: Formidable Partner (2.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Murder Moss (4.10)
won at Absolct point-to-point on Senday.
LONG-DESTANCE EUNINERS: Formidable Partner (3.10) has
been sent 278 miles by Mrs V Ward from Assby, Uncohastive. 2.10 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HICAP HURDLE (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 2m Minimum weight: 10st, True handkup weights: Miss Most 9st 11th, Shar Up Opt 116. SETTING: 10-11 Appendiate Monty, 100-30 Singley Send, 9-2 Know-Ho-No., 11-2 Hear's 4 Descen, 12-1 Schoolwegh, 25-1 Most Mich, 33-1 others 3.10 TOM MCCONNELL MEMORIAL HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 4YO 2m HYPERION 1.50 Elite Hope 2.20 Don Sebestien 2.50 Shaldyr 3.20 Dawalib 3.50 Sparkling Edge 4.20 Contravene 4.50 Shallo Thirty GOUNG: Standard.
STALLS: 77 & 1m of —outside; remainder—inside.
STALLS: 77 & 1m of —outside; remainder—inside.
DEAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best from of 20. 1m 4f.

If Threstond, isolated, out outside.
Course is north of 10000 on A449. Wolverbampian station 1 m.
ADMIRSTON: Club 110; Tateradia 56 (QAP members of Dismond Cob 14); Viewing Restaurant 125.90 including entrance and meal.
CAR PARK; free.

2.10 Henry Hoolet 2.40 Singing Sand 3.10 Meltem-ison 3.40 Forward Gien 4.10 Master Kit 4.40 Lit-

tie Redwing

2.20 DAFFODIL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 1f 79yds

6 DOUBLE ASSIST (25) J Howard Johnson 10 12 P Carbony

5-46008 DOUBLING, DICE (5) R Aller 8 10 3 ______ S Melmose FOFGOS JARROWI (5) Mrs A Risuglaco 6 10 2 _____ Blichaol Bertina ROOSGO-0 SEECONDS (MMY (15) 1 Golde 6 10 0 _____ G Ceale

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Kismetin Set 7th, Seconds Away

Set Sib.

NET SHIT: 2-1 Paince Of Gobi, 9-2 Octobery, 8-1 Tiono, 6-1 Watage Rad,
6-1 Doubling Dice, 10-1 Many Hoolet, 12-1 Bud's Wet, 14-1 Seconds Away,
20-1 Junus, 25-1 Resenting

CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 80000 271

F41-640 PIETS A DAUCER (8) Mos LV Russel 5 12 0 ... A Thomton
6-300-62 APPEARINGE MOMEY (18) F Mussel 5 12 0 ... A Thomton
7223-75 INOW-HO-MO (18) M Harmond 8 11 3 ... R Santhy
723-75 INOW-HO-MO (18) P Mustech 7 10 11 ... R Santhy
73-625 SINGHIN SAND (18) P Mustech 7 10 11 ... R Santhy
10-76-70 MINISTRICH (4) 8 Elector 9 10 10 ... K Johnson
80-784 REAMDREAGE (60) G Recents 5 10 9 ... A Dobbin
FFOULT SPECIALE MOVIN (26) F Justech 1 10 4 ... T Read
(14) F40 MINISTRICH (4) F Mustech 8 10 0 ... D Bestley
000-00 SHIRT TOP (70) Mis E Moscop 8 10 0 ... F Power

9 declared 9 declared -

5-46006 DOUBLING DICE (9) R Allen 8 10 3 ..

STALLS: 77 & Im 6f — ouiside, remainder—inside.

STALLS: 77 & Im 6f — ouiside, remainder—inside.

STALLS: 77 & Im 6f — ouiside, remainder—inside.

I BAW ANYANTAGE: High manbers best from 6f to Im 4f.

I BEC2 DES SERISTINI SIS W Hoges 86 — D Holland T O Holla 1.50 RIS HANDICAP (CLASS C) (DIV I) 57,300 250 E4,000 added 1m 6f 186yds

24,000 access LIM of 1.00/05 |
132,003 CARRESON RID (275) May N Rectly 76 8... A Californ 4 8 |
140,12 0001-30 PEDOSMS (8) COR) Prince 5 9 0... May N Rectly 76 8... A Californ 2 8 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (20) R Holimbrood 6 9 0... D Maille 59 6 8 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (20) R Holimbrood 6 9 0... D Maille 59 6 8 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (30) SHAROTE 6 8 10... A Sharote 10 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (30) SHAROTE 6 8 10... A Sharote 10 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (30) SHAROTE 6 8 10... A Sharote 8 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (30) SHAROTE 6 8 10... A Sharote 8 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) (30) SHAROTE 6 8 10... A Sharote 8 |
140,2 1 0005-31 SHAROTE (27) SHA

HETTING: T-4 Heights Of Fem. (3-1 Steicher 4-1 Peterste, 5-1 Cuttheret Rd. 14-1 Philadet, 20-1 Ruction Ts Dawn, 25-1 Stever's Wonder, Mapongo, Efficaciona, 33-1 phores 3.20 RIS HANDIG AP (CLASS C) (DIV II) £7,300

3.40 JR McNAIR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F)

4.10 FFE HUNT CLUB CUP HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) 152,000 added 3m

4 03:141 ROWAL CARLTON (3 3) E9 G | Moort 5 8 9 3 Welberth 6 5 2000-12 YESHAM DUFFE (1) (7 0) P Curtial 8 8 4 1) Hurrison 1 8 6 14-1405 LEIGH CROFTER (1) (70) P Curtial 8 8 4 1) Hurrison 1 8 7 411043 GULF SHAMD (8) 6 20) E Reson 5 8 4 5 Drowne 2 9 0-00511 DWWSIB (4) (7) (2) 10 Hight loses 7 7 10 (5c) 1 Channock 3 6 declared - 6 declared - 10 Movement 1 0 M 3.50 FREESIA HAMDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900

added 3YO ## 37:235 SQUEROUGE [14] (2 P Hastern 9 7 _______ 5 Drowne 1 2 2200-15 BRUTAL FAMILISM (30) (20) / L Bye 82 ______ R Lappin 8 3 44123-5 MINITERIOR ESD (8 (30) Abryon Macke 9 1.0 Summers (5) 2 5543-2 MANGES (6) K Cub nergion-Brian 9 0 ____ C Intendry 5 5 451-43 MANGES FOLEY (1.5) (20) N Ustrooten 8 6 ____ A Day (5) 4 5610-31 SPARRUNG EDGE (1.20) (20) C Dayer 8 5 ____ D 8 Mediate 3 ____ 6 General ___ 5 General ___ B Mediate 3 ____ 6 General ___ 6 General ____ 6 General ___ 6 General ___ 6 General ___ 6 General ___ 6 General ____ 6 General _____ 6 General

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WORLD CUP, GROUP TWO QUALIFIER: England v Italy, Wembley, 8pm tonight

Where the game will be won and lost



Don Howe talks to Glenn Moore about who will prevail in the key tactical battles in tonight's match

E Paries distant (in continue

he most dicey area for the Italians is the goalkeeping. In the last few months I have seen some horrendous goalkeeping mistakes in Serie.4. Angelo Peruzzi. who is expected to play tonight, has made some of them.

We know what goalkeepers are like and it is possible he will go out there and play out of his skin but it must be a worry for them.

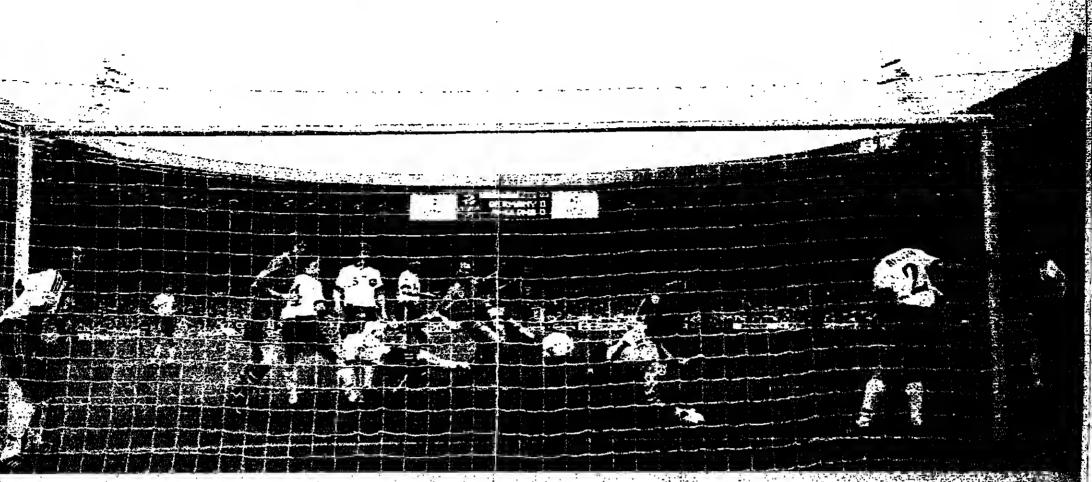
They also have a problem in defence. Cesare Maldini has come in as coach and it looks like he will play a spare defender at the back. But in recent years top Italian sides, like Milan and Juventus, have been playing zonal back fours, like we always used to. They have now run out of sweepers.

Christian Panucci has been sugpested as one but I've never seen him play sweeper. He's usually a right-back but, though he is good on the ball, his weakness is his defending. He would be a good wing-hack.

Paolo Maldini is another possible sweeper who is a wonderful wing-Again they have more problems than us. If Paul Ince is fit, Glenn's probback. He would also be excellent at the left side of a back three; he could lem is whether to play Gazza or break from there as well. hreaks from midfield. David Batty

Ciro Ferrara played sweeper against Northern Ireland last month but it is aimost certain he will mark Alan Shearer. He has been the most outstanding centre-back in Italian football these last few years.

This will not worry Alan. He will work him and work him. He knows at some point in the 90 minutes he will get away, maybe it will be a header at the far post, or a dart at the near. And when he does, that is his chance to score. Ferrara knows that



Steve McManaman as the one who

and Ince have been so solid he will

If Ince does not make it Batty will

They are also very solid. They

will have Demetrio Albertini,

Roberto Di Matteo and Dino Bag-

gio. Albertini is young but very

have to play a more central role. Jamie Redknapp could come in. Whenever he has played in international football he has looked

want to keep them together.

These could well decide the game and Glenn will have been working hard on them - England teams

I think we have more chance of scoring from them than they do, as we did in the Euro 96 semifinal against Germany when Shearer put us ahead

ward. It will he tough in midfield. There is no one like the wonder-

ful Giancarlo Antognoni there - but

they have Gianfranço Zola

Zola is the problem. He will drift

around. Does Glenn go man-for-man

or does he decide we have enough

ability to pick him up wherever he goes? He is the best player I have seen at drifting wide of the back three and

etting behind the pushed-in full-

back. I would man-mark him with

Gareth Southgate or Soi Campbell

stepping out of the back three to do

early on from a well-worked corner (pictured

If we get all our big guns up there, all the centre-backs, at corners and free-bicks, we could put them under a lot of pressure. Their goalkeepers are not the best at corring out and catch-

the line. He's a better finisher than

Pierluigi Casiraghi and bette t on the

floor. Casiraghi is better in the air.

He is also good at pressing, he will

Piero. They say he cannot play in the

same side as Zola - is that Cesare

In goal we do have the best er qual-

Both sides will have good players on

the bench. We may have Les Fer-

dinand and probably eithen Gazza

or McManaman. They may have Del

Piero and Ravanelli or Casiraghi.

Maldini playing a dummy?

ity in David Seaman.

Then there is Alessandio Del

chase defenders.

have to be well rehearsed. At Euro 96 Strart ger - he senced a great Peace was given responsibility to decide whetherto drop back on the goalline at free-kicks and he

kicks but we have Beckham.

Zola can deliver free-kicks anywhere and we

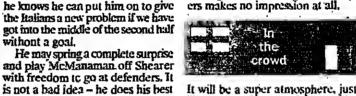
the Italians a new problem if we have got into the middle of the second half vithont a goal. He may spring a complete surprise and play McManaman off Shearer with freedom to go at defenders. It

If Glenn starts without Ferdinand,

work for Liverpool when he finds space in the inside-left spot. It has been difficult for Glenn to plan. When Arrigo Sacchi was manager of Italy you knew exactly how they would play. Now he only has one game to go on. But Maldini has only had one game to

work with his players. Neither coach will find it easy to change things. I could understand Glenn trying to get Wembley to put a hench close to the pitch. It is one

messages on. Shouting at the play-



like Furo 96. There could be one significant difference, though, One of the nice things about the summer is that I never thought the crowd were nervous. I have a feeling they will realise that tonight's a bit different, that this is a World Cup qual-

ifyiog campaign and we have to win.
I would hope they will still have that sense of enjoying themselves because their mood can affect the players. Glenn will be telling the players to be patient. the crowd will be wanting an early goal

Conclusion

draw will be a good result for Italy: They have that last game to come in lialy. We have to take the game to

It won't be a high scoring match buitit is a hard one to call. It looks like a draw but we now have players who can get us a good Shearer, Ferdinand, Beckham: England to win 1-0: Don Howe was Ron Greenwood's assistant when England beat Italy in the 1978 World Cup qualifier, and Bobby Robson's assistant when they wet in the 1990 finals. He was Terry Venables

assistant during the European Cham

plunship and is now the Football

Association's technical co-ordinator.

Howe also commentates on Italian foot-

Muster wipes out his bad memories

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Dubai

Thomas Muster thoroughly enjoyed his first-round match at the Duhai Open last night, which was a pienie in an oasis compared to his experience here a year ago.

On that occasion the Austrian arrived as the newly elevated world No 1, jet-lagged after a Davis Cup tie in South Africa which had been prolonged by rain, and lost in the first round against Sandon Stolle, a "lucky loser" from the qualifying. The match had been prefaced

by insults from the Americans Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi concerning Muster's right to

be recognised as No 1 after winning all but two of his titles on clay courts. Muster probably would have taken greater exception to their remarks had he been wider awake after arriving from Johannesburg at 5am.

Yesterday, rested and properly prepared. Musier accounted for Sweden's Tomas Nydahl, 6-4, 6-3, in 81 minutes. The Austrian No 2 seed will now play Martin Sinner, the German qualifier who eliminated Britain's Tim Henman on Monday night.

Henman was not the only one to make a regrettable departure. The Moroccan doubles team of Karim Alami and Hicham Arazi was disqualified by the British umpire. Gerry Armstrong, famed for showing John

McEnroe the door at the 1990 Australian Open.

Arazi was warned for ball abuse at the end of the first set against Pablo Albano, of Argentina, and Sweden's Peter Nyborg. Alami was given a penalty point for rackel abuse at 15-30 in the last game and again at the end of the game.

Their opponents, who were leading 6-4, 6-7, 6-5, were awarded the match - and Alami and Arazi were automatically disqualified from the singles as well of the doubles, losing a total of \$10.630 (£6.600) each, with a fine to come.

The two "lucky losers" to henclit are the Czech David Rikl. who replaces Alami against Stolle, and Hendrik Jan Davids. of the Netherlands, who plays Italy's Renzo Furlan place of Arazi.

Henman did manage to make a good impression, in spite of losing in the first round of the doubles as well as the singles. The British No I at least can boast the distinction of becoming the first player to have his handprints set in plaster, Hollywood fashion, for the creation of a "tennis walk of fame"

at the Dubai Tennis Stadium. This act of faith in Henman's future was followed by the laying on of hands by the Spaniard Carlos Moya, anothbright prospect, along with the handprints of four established performers. Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic, Richard Krajicek and Thomas Muster. The prints will be placed in a

Football 7.30 unless stated

SECOND DIVISION Brackin v Hamili

First Division

Second Division

Also playing (not on co Bostol Coy.

Third Division

Boumemouth v Burde Bristol Rovers v Luton

GROUP SIX Spain v Malta (9.30) IBL Jose Rico Pere: stadium, Alicantel.

Nationwide Football League

granhe star outside the Royal Enclosuite.

Becker was the only player to experience difficulty, chiefly because the plaster in his tray had hegun to set. The German was again frustrated after moving to a second tray before eventualsucceeding in three sets.

Henman caused a slight stir while practising making his prints. He inadversently put his hands on the frame, which tipped and splashed wet plaster over a press officer.

Life cn the court continued to be rather more complicated for Henrnan, who partnered Pat Cash to a defeat in the doubles against David Nainkin, of South Africa, and Dutchman Rogier Wassen, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4. Results, Digest, page 23

TODAY'S FIXTURES

LEASIE 01" WALES Githert League Cup Quarter-firl al second-leg: Bangor Crty (0) v Rhyl (0); Caemarion Town (1) v Llansanti-fraid (1) (7: 45); Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff (1) Barry Town '3) (7:30); Ton Pertire (0) v New-town (0) (7:30).

PRESS ANT LIQURINAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:

The former Benetton designer Rory Byrne will take over from John Barnard as chief designer at Ferrari next week. Byrne, who served Benetton

Motor racing

New designer

for Ferrari

for more than a decade, left the leam late last year and was thought to have taken early retirement. He and Ferrari's recently appointed technical director, Ross Brawn, were seen as the creative force at Benetton in recent years. Brawn also left Benetton in December and joined Ferrari early this year. Barnard, the successful

McLaren designer in the late 1980s, is understood to be interested in working with Alain Prost, who wants to buy Ligier.

Goulding to stay

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The St Helens captain. Bobbie Goulding, has delighted the club by withdrawing his transfer request.

The Saints board met vesterday to discuss Goulding's apparent determination to seek a move if the club would not improve his contract, but the scrum-half forestalled that meeting by asking the directors to cancel his request.

Eric Ashton, the St Helens chairman, said the club had not placated Goulding by agreeing to pay him any extra money and that Goulding had given no indication of why he had changed his mind. Goulding, who has already, at the age of 25, played for Wigan,

key figure in winning the double of Challenge Cup and Super League last year, but was sent off in the Cup victory over Wigan on Saturday and faces a League disciplinary committee tomorrow.

Wigan's directors were last night discussing Newcastle's £750,000 bid for Va'aiga Tuig-amala. The former All Black is widely expected to return to rughy union this week.

St Helens, Wigan, Carlisle and Dudley Hill are all to face a League sub-committee on Friday over brawls in their Cupties last weekend. The televised fifth-round tie

on 22 February is to be the London Broncos' match against Bradtord Bulls, which will be played at The Stoop, their new



WINSTONLIEAD KENT LEAGUE: Hythe Utd v Herne Bay; Sheppey Utd v Chatham Town. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-

Rugby Union

UNLET SUSSEEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Mile: Oak v Selsey (7.15). UHLSPORT United Counties League F JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-

17 Darlington v Sounthorpe

22 Leyton O tent v Camendge 23 Mansfield v Lincoln

32 Morecard be r Welling ... 33 Slough v/Northwen.....

34 Stevenage v Kettenng 35 Teilord v Heyes

GM Vauxhall Conference

Also playing and on coupons); Wolarg v South-port.

icis League Premier Division

CLUB MATCHES: Oxford University v The Arm FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

Tennents Scottish Cur Fourth round

> Also playing (not on coupons): Brec Rouers, Fallonic v Dunfermine, Morton Sunday: Hearts v Dunden United. Me bornan v Celbc. Bell's Scottish League

Second Division Also playing (not on coupons): First Divis Cyclepank v St Mirren, Second Division; Ber v Queen of the South.

Third Division 49 East Stirting v Forter .





Barco dead for Ro

Scimeca's

a (23) (3 (4) حكذا من الاحل

sport

Barcelona deadline for Robson

Football

NICK DUXBURY

Managers were having a tough time again yesterday, with Old-hand Athletic parting company with Graham Sharp and Barolicua giving Bobby Robson 15 days to improve results or pacificis suitcase.

Sharp and his No 2, Colin Harry, resigned after considering their position following the 3-0 defeat against Grimsby on Saturday. The result left Oldham bottom of the First Division and led to a 45-minute inquest in a locked dressing-room after the final whistle.

"We understand their reasons for resigning and there is no acrimony on either side," a chib man said.

The former Everton duo took over m November 1994 from Joe Royle, who ironically quit the Latics to become the

manager at Goodison Park
Andy Rinchie, the former
Oldham striker now playing
for Scarborough, is the supporters choice to take over, but, he may face opposition from Jimmy Nicholl, who was sacked by Milwall on Monday and Neil Warnock, shown the door at Plymouth Argyle last week.

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TOTAL AND WILLIAM

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The departure lounge at Barcelona airport could soon see Robson passing through clutching a one-way ticket. The former England manager had a . five-hour meeting with club officials yesterday at which he was told to start winning games, be-ginning against Racing de San-tander this weekend.

"I'm aware that people may be looking for a culprit, but I'm not afraid that that culprit may be me," said Robson, whose team trail leaders Real Madrid travelling.

by eight points. A gap too wide for Barcelona, who are said to be considering replacing Rob-son with the Croat coach Tomislay lvic or the club's assistant trainer, Carles Rexach, for the rest of the season while they step up negotiations to land the Ajax manager, Luis van Gaal,

Blackburn Rovers, who will be monitoring the Robson att-uation carefully, have been re-jected by Marek Citko. The Polish striker, in a sudden disal issues and loyalty for furning down a £2.75m transfer and staying with Widzew Lodz "I am staying with the chib to which I owe so much," he said: "I am not concerned with fi-

nancial matters." Arsenal have dismissed reports emanating from Italy that they had offered £7m for the Lazio striker Giuseppe Signori, but confirmed that they are plan-ning to extend Highbury's 38,000

capacity. Islington Council are to carry out a feasibility study. The Reading keeper, Bobby Mikhailov, will not play again this season after a scan confirmed cruciate ligament damage to his left knee. The Bulgarian international, 34 today, was injured in a collision with Scott Sellars during Saturday's 3-2 victory at Bolton Wanderers

A supporter, Rob Emery, is to seek £200 compensation from the Football League in what is seen by many as a test case. He maintains that Norwich City's match at Tranmere Rovers last month should never have started because of fog. Emery, who endured a nine-hour, 500-mile round trip from Norfolk yet saw little of Norwich's 3-1 defeat, is demanding reimbursement for his time and

Scimeca's incentive

Riccardo Scimeca, Aston Villa's England's last home interna-England Under-21 central de-tional against Poland in Octofender, has been given an added incentive to thwart Italy's ambitions of qualifying for the European Championship when the two countries meet in Group about giving up the cigarettes if Two at Ashton Gate today.

For Riccardo's Italian-born father, Benedetto, has promised to give up smoking after 38 years. if his son manages to score his first goal for England Under-21 in what is an important top-ofthe-table encounter. England head the group by a point from

Italy, who have a game in hand. Scimeca Jur, who captains the side for the first time, had the chance to break that duck in

ber, but his penalty was saved in the goalless draw at Mo-lineux. The Sicilian-born Benedetto said: I am serious Riccardo scores."

England have included two new caps in the midfield pairing of Amenal's Stephen Hughes and Paul Murray, of Queen's Park Rangers.

ENGLAND INDER-21. (European Under-21. Championship v Raly, Ashton Gate, hodey): Macchell (Norwich), Rome (Assend), Hed (Openty), Seimens (Aston Ville, 24th, Ratin Chadron), Carbon (Perty), Murray (QFR), Hughes (Fremil), Buskey (Locaron), Endie (Norwich), Bowyer Loch), Substitutes: Carlingher (Larpool), Wright (Ipswich), Buckarby (Openty), Soowcroft (Ipswich), Hodand (Elmungham).



Bowe leaves ring for 'The Crucible'

Riddick Bowe, a former world heavyweight champion, stepped off a plane and into the ranks of the United States Marines on Monday. The 29-year-old Bowe and

21 other new recruits, most of them in their teens, were met by three Marine instructors at Charleston airport in South Carolina prior to a hus trip to

Marine Corps training centre. The newest, and probably the first multi-millionaire Marine

briefly scanned the crowd upon arrival, but showed no emotion. Bowe stunned the boxing

world last month with his announcement that he was fulfiling a lifelong dream by en-listing in the Marine Reserves. He will be with them on one weekend a month of active duty for three years.

Bowe must first get through Boot Camp, 12 weeks of basic last two fights only to win know what to expect." training that should make preparing for a fight with Mike Tyson or Evander Holyfield

seem like a day at the beach. The Marine training, however, could be just the thing for the often overweight and out of shape fighter, whose last two bouts were disasters.

Bowe, who won the heavyweight title by beating Holyfield in 1992, was getting battered by

when the Polish-born fighter was disqualified for a succession of low blows.

The culmination of Boot Camp is an exercise knows as The Crucible", a gruelling 35-mile march to be completed in 54 hours on low rations and little rest.

"It's a pretty serious shock," said Gunnery Sgt Melvin Allen of the trainees' regime. "The

If he survives basic training, Bowe will graduate on 9 May, when the fighter who has made an estimated \$100m (£62.5m) in and out of the ring will begin to earn as little as \$600 a month as a private in the Marine Reserves.

Bowe will be the fourth former heavyweight champion to serve in the Marines, joining Gene Tunney, Leon Spinks and Ken Norton.

Cork now raring to go after 'off game'

Cricket

Dominic Cork has dismissed rumours circulating in recent weeks that he is out of sorts both physically and mentally, claiming his only problem was that he had an "off game" in Wellington. The England bowler had a

slight back problem before the first Test in Auckland, missed the first leg of this winter's tour in Zimbabwe hecause of personal problems at home, and in England's second Test victory at the Basin Reserve he took only one wicket. So far, in the two Tests against the Kiwis. Cork only has two wickers to his name at an average of 43.

In Wellington, his bowling looked lethargic at times, althrough it improved towards

Cork said: "I think it's more a case of not getting it quite right on the day. Every bowler goes through a patch where the hall just misses an edge nr an lbw is not given. Hopefully it will be my turn in the next Test, but Darren Gough and Andy Cad-dick bowled brillianty and got the wickets in Wellington. As long as England win then having an off game is line by me!"
With New Zealand 1-tidown. England officials are expecting to see far more grass than usual left on the pitch, so although England want to keep the same side, including both spinners, there may be a case for a fourth

At the instigation of avid football fan, Alee Stewart, and readily agreed to by coach David Lloyd, England's practice session in Christchurch has been scheduled to start late in the morning so the players can watch England's World Cup match against Italy live on satel-

Lloyd said no one in the squad would make the mistake of relaxing their grip on New Zealand now a 1-0 lead has been established in the three-Test

series. Chris Silverwood, the 21ear-old Yorkshire fast bowler. has been ruled out of contention for the Test. He split the wehhing between his right thumb and forelinger in a fielding practice accident two days before the second Test, Craig White or Alan Mullally could play in place of one of England's spinners if there is a green top. New Zealand have dropped batsman Adam Parore and called up the uncapped Marthew Horne. Parore has been out of form, producing scores of to, 33, 4 and 15 in the first two Tests 4 against England, Horne, 26, has played two matches against England on its tour, including scor-ing 64 for New Zealand A at

Athletics

Athletics
International athletics officiels have taunched an investigation into a fight which broke out when a drug tester fied to take urine samples from Greek athletes in Germany last week. The international Arnateur Athletic Federation said yesterday it was studying a report from one of its drug testers, who alleges he was pushed about by an angy Greek coach when he was trying to carry out random training tests in Dortmund. The doping official was unable to take any urine samples for analysis and the Greek athletes could face a four-year ban if they are found gailty of having refused to provide them – the equivalent of testing positive for banned substances under IAAF rules.

Zola Pletarse, the two-time former aniel Landie e Hilliam d'as The missing the bearing then In an main and

der IAAF rutes.
Zola Ptetarse, the two-time former world champion, will aim to complete a har-trick in next morth's World Cross-country Championships in Italy. Peterse — who won the title as a teerage Zola Budd running for Britain in 1934 and 1995 – has been named in the South African squad to contest the event in Turk on 23 March.

FIVE-MATION INDOOR MEETING (Genee, II) Selected results: Meac 60m hundles: 1 A Pudgram (to 7.75ee; 2 P Lumin (F) 7.76; 3 G Gundemen (Nor 7.85. Long Jumps 1 Y Mecayatows (Rus) 7.96m; 2 E Bangse (F)

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7.88; 2 S Blanchi (1) 7.70. Wowann: Shot: 1.3 Kifeeleva (Rus) 18.62m; 2 M Roselen (6) 17.89; 3 M Ramos (Sp) 17.47. 60m have-dess; 1 P Garrel (F) 8.06sec; 2 C Tuzz (f) 8.13; 3 S Lauldrova (Rus) 8.13. 60se; 1 M Mazzjarfova (Rus) 7.18c; 2 M Zherve (Rus) 7.46; 3 G Golfera (f) 7.46.

Liam Botham yesterday agreed a lu-crative one-year deal to play for the Brad-ford League club, Windhill, and admitted he has not ruled out a possible return to country cricket. The 19-year-old son of the former England player, ian Both-am, left Hampshire after one season to sign a professional contract last year with the rugby union club, West Hartle-pool.

SHEPFELD SHREAD V and the street South Australia 251 for 5 (B. Johnman 91) v Termania.

RED STRIPE CUP: St George's, Grenede (Died day of four): Berbedos 181 and 167: Windward Islands 165 and 111 (O Ghaon. 2-37). Barbedos won by 51 rems. St John's (Final day of four, rain prevented winy): Locust Light S 352; Infrided and Toward Light S 352; Infrided and Toward Light abandoned as draw.

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

AROUND THE RESORTS

Vitosha ÇANADA

SLOVEN

UNITED STATES

Colchester United striker, for £15,000. PREMIERSHIP AND FIRST DIVISION SUSPENSIONE: Sendings-off: D Powell (Dony Courby) 3 matches from 15 Feb; 8 Lallich (Sention) 1 much son 22 Feb; M Lever (Smortly Kowi3 matches from 12 Feb; R Millson (Crestica) 2 matches from 15 Feb; M (Gmedia (Crestica) 2 matches from 15 Feb; M Fleck (Norwich) 2 matches from 15 Feb; C Fleening (Oldham) 1 match from 15 Feb; C Fleening (Oldham) 1 match from 15 Feb; C Fleening (Oldham) 1 Feb; M Gealiger (Brumsgrown) 1 match from 15 Feb; M Gealiger (Brumsgrown) 1 match from 15 Feb; M Sabbaser (Matched) 3 matches from 19 Feb; S Robbasen (Brumsdrown) 3 matches from 15 Feb; S Robbasen (Brumsdrown) 3 matches fr S Robinson (Damington) 3 matches Fet: M Jeolesen (Norwich) 3 matches for It Binker (Bolton) (no suspension - re-ched free land been no violent conduct a lag video of offeropt. 21 pensity points:

MONDAY'S LATE RESIXITS: Sell's Soutiels Leegue Premier Division: Absticen O Hearts C. SA Destro Trophy second-round replay: Hyde United 2 Storragione 2 nect second replay: Alon-day at Storragione). Ids Leegue Premier

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SPORTING DIGEST Brighton and Hove Albion yesterday signed Robbie Reinelt, the 23-year-old Colchester United striker, for £15,000.

Division: Carshakon Athletic 2 Chessey 0; De-glanhan & Reducigs 1 Heraton 1. First Divisions Coyoton 1 Mytyletoff 2; Federation Berwary Northern Langue First Division: Whichen 3 Westly 2; Pendins League Cop Group Peur Sco-borough 1 Tork 1. Strong Four: Circustrised 1 Scartiflorip 3. Messa Insurance Combination First Division: Queen's Park Rangins 5 Maked 0 (at Harour Borrugh): Sention 2 Southern-ton 2; Insurance 1, Pending 1, Pending

Hockey REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: RAF 7 British Police 6: Oxford University 2 Army 3.

Shefield Stoelers closed the gap on the Super League leaders, Cardiff Devils, to two points by winning their game in hand at Sheffield Arena on Monday nggin. Alex. Dampier's side beet their "bogey" toam, Ayr Scottish Eagles, 4-1 — only their second win in six meetings between the two sides this season. MHL: Montreal 4 San Jose 2; Phoeno. 4 St

Rugby Union CLUB MATCHES: Cancelled: Abertion v Tor-mer, Portugued v Chepstow, Maesing v Glam-

Australia will challenge for the 1997 Admiral's Cup at Cowes after missing the last event two years ago because of the unavailable of to-class salions and the high costs involved. Syd Fischer will lead high costs involved. Syd Historia will as a tisem of three boats for the eight-race regatta in July and August, cultrimating in the Fastner Roce off the English coest. Fischer, a veteran of seven Admira's Cup regattas and numerous America's Cup campaigns, will be joined by skippers Strey Kultmar and John Calvert-Jones.

APRIC WORLD CHAMPONSHIPE (Sentrare, II) Wesser's super-Giant statem: Leading positions: 1.1 Kosmir III) Jan 2.556x; 2 N 5-10; 12.354; 4 C Morpher (Fr) 1.23.58; 5 N Garanston (Sentrare) 1.24.00; 6 R Gayara (Mail 1.24.24; 7 P Wesrg (Sent) 1.24.47; 8 W Dorfmester (Ad) 1.24.53; 9 S Median (ib 1.24.47; 4 W Zelembaya (Rus) 1.25.08.

SYBASE OPEN (San Jose, California) First, round: M Norman (Swo) bt C Meman (US) 7-6 6-7.8 Steven (M2) bt N Penera (Ver) 6-1.7-5; C Wacodad (US) bt N Penera (Ver) 6-1.7-5; C Wacodad (US) bt N Penera (Ver) 6-2-6-3; J Tarango (US) bt T Ho RUS 6-3-6-1.1 Generation (US) bt M Peneration (US) 6-3-6-1. Meman (US) bt S Byan (US) 6-1-6-4.

(US) of S Crysm (1-15) O' 1-0-14.
MARSCELLE OPPON (France) Meer's singless that rounds: F Santono (Fri bt. S Grospetin (Fri 6-4; A Clement (Fr) bt. N (Autoria (Stock) 6-1; A (Autoria (Stock) 6-1; A

7-6. IXA WOMEN'S SATELITIE (Birminghorn) Finat round (66 undest stated): Lant to R Wolles 6-4 6-2; L Woodroffe to G D Natile (10 6-2 6-1; L Letimer to A Lombard (10) 2-4 6-4 6-4; O hardow (Rus) by M Rute (Lepon) 6-1 6-2; E Bond bt. S Tolu (R) 6-4 5-7 7-5; H Matthews bt. S Finer (Shee) 6-4 7-5; C Taylor bt. O Cleus-charles (Bels) 7-6 7-5.

Chang states his case in clean manner

Michael Chang, the twice former champion, and the fourth seed, Todd Martin, yesterday recorded convincing straight sets victories in the first round of the Sybase Open tournament in San Jose, California.

Chang, the No 2 seed who won the event in 1988 and 1992, overwhelmed Mashiska Washington, a qualifier who is the younger hrother of MaliVai, 6-2, 6-0. The world No 4 said. however, he must improve his service if he is to take the top spot from Pete Sampras this year. A lot of the big guys like Petc get a lot of free points off their serve," Chang said. "If I can get a few more free points myself, it will put more pressure on my opponents.

Martin, playing his first tournament for mure than two months out with a knee injury, cruised into the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over fellow American Steve Bryan. Sampras opens his defence

against Alex Radulescu, of Germany, in a tournament which sees the third seed Andre Agassi make his return from injury.

> TODAY'S NUMBER 54.7

The percentage share of the ence enjoyed by BBC2 for the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker final between Steve Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan on Sunday. Nearly 10 million viewers tuned in.

Kostner wins Italy's third gold medal Skiing

Isolde Kostner retained her super-giant slalom title to complete a hat-trick of gold medals for the hosts, Italy, at the world championships in Sestriere. Kostner, who hails from the

German-speaking village of St Ulrich in Val Gardena, overcame a poor start to clock Imin 23.50sec down the Kandahar-Banchetta piste and beat Ger-many's Katja Seizinger by 0.08sec Seizinger, the Olympic downhill gold medallist and former super-G world champion, was in turn 0.06sec ahead of her compatriot, Hilde Gerg. "I was never troubled by all the attention," said Kostner. shrugging off huge local expectations after Italy's Deborah Compagnoni won the first two

women's races.
She matched Compagnoni's achievement in defending a title, but Kostner said it was the Norwegian Atle Skaardal retaining his men's super-G title in the opening race of the championships that had been provided more help to her. Particularly the way he skied the bottom part of the course. "I tried to follow his line and it was the right thing to do because I won... I knew I could win on this course as Skaardal has the same skis as me," she said.

After her poor start, she made up more than 0.40 seconds in the final stages to win. "I thought I'd go well on the upper part and have a few problems at the bottom. In fact it was the other way round," she said. Seizinger, who set off fifth. straight after Gerg, made a few mistakes that sent her wide of the racing line. "The eight-hundredths stink," she said of

the winning margin. "The result,

however, is no surprise."

Parcells can coach Jets American football

Bill Parcells can begin coaching the New York Jets immediately after Paul Tagliabue, the NFL commissioner, brokered a deal on Monday between the Jets and New England Patriots, who he left last month after taking them to the Super Bowl.

After more than six hunrs of meetings with Leon Hess, the Jets owner, and Bob Kraft, the Patriots owner. Tagliabue announced a resolution to the coaching controversy that he declared would make fans of both the Patriots and Jets happy.

The Jets will give up four draft picks over three years to New England for the right to have Parcells on the sidelines for the 1997 season. But they did not have to relinquish this year's number one overall pick, which Kraft had demanded.

The Patriots will receive the Jets' third and fourth round draft picks this year, the second round pick in 1998 and a first round selection in 1999. The Jets also agreed to donate .

\$300,000 (almost £185,000) to the .: Patriots' charitable foundation. Both sides agreed to allow Tagliahue in determine the compensation package after failing to reach an agreement.

Last Wednesday the Jets at-

tempted to sidestep demands for compensation by naming Parcells a consultant for the 1997 season with the under-standing that he would take over the team in 1998.

They named Parcells' lougs; time right-hand man, Bill Beli-t chick, head coach for 1997. with a job as assistant to Parcells beginning in 1998. Kraft labelled the consultant jub "a transparent farce" and formally asked Tagliabue to step in.

The state of the s



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WORLD CUP: Hoddle refuses to reveal results of fitness tests on Adams and Ince as he prepares for crucial qualifying match

Zola threatens the English renaissance

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

The extent of English football's renaissance football's renaissance will be tested tonight by an Italian side seeking to embark upon a rebirth of their own.

On a wet and windy Wembley night, far removed from the summer of lions. England will seck to revive the memory of Euro96 and Italy to exorcise it.

There is a sense that Italy, one of the few nations whose football pedigree surpasses England's, are vulnerable. Dispatched in the group stages in the summer, under new management, weak in core positions, they come to Wembley in a state of flux.

However, they also arrive bolstered by the knowledge that Juventus have twice outplayed Manchester United this season, that Gianfranco Zola is running riot in the Premiership, and that England are riven by injuries (although some of Machiavelli's descendants suspect a "smokescreen").

It could also be argued that their Euro96 departure was, at worst, unfortunate, Arrigo Sacchi's foolish team selections were compounded by a referee's cowardice in not dismissing Andreas Köpke in the crucial group game. Like England, Italy drew with Germany.

Sacchi has since gone and his replacement, Cesare Maldini. has had only a one-sided match with Northern Ireland with which to prepare. He is no novice, though. Watching a video of one of the great Italian performances, the 3-2 win over Brazil in the 1982 World Cup, one sees a man in a white jacket leap from the Italian hench to embrace Paolo Rossi at the final whistle. That man was Maldini, a part of the Italian national coaching set-up since before Glenn Hoddle even played international football. Maldini arrives at Wembley,

where he captained Milan to a European Cup win over Benfica

The calm before the storm: Italy's Gianfranco Zola at Wembley yesterday, preparing for tonight's World Cup qualifier against England

34 years ago, with a strong hand. Fabrizio Ravanelli, Enrico Chiesa and Alessandro Del One hopes McManaman Piero make a £30m front three plays, ideally in a refurbished which would match most in the world. Yet all could be on the bench. Luca Vialli and Beppe Signori are not even in

Yet Italy, as Don Howe explains inside, are vulnerable in the key positions of goalkeep-er and sweeper. England, depending on who is fit when the smoke finally clears, also have rare riches. Les Ferdinand, Robbie Fowler, Ian Wright and

Steve McManaman could be on the hench.

Christmas Tree formation, That would have him and Paul Merson roaming behind Alan Shearer, who is fit after his back injury responded to spells in traction. David Beckham and Graeme Le Saux, two ball-playing athletes and excellent crossers, will patrol the flanks. Between them David Batty and Paul Ince would anchor the midfield. However, Ince looks even less

jury than Tony Adams, the other major doubt, his ankle prob-lem. If both have failed yesterday afternoon's fitness tests - Hoddle was not reveal-

ing the results - it will prove he was not laying a false trail, not that vindication will give him any satisfaction. "They are no more than 50-50," Hoddle said. If Ince is absent, Jamie Redknapp may he a hetter rethan Paul placement Gascoigne. He is fitter. more disciplined and rarely wastes a pass. Gascoigne could still have a part to play. Introduced after likely to overcome his thigh in-

slowed to his pace, he could be devastating.

The back three are likely to be Sol Campbell, Gareth Southgate and Stuart Pearce, one of whom may track Zola. While this is a departure from standard practice, the alternative is to have three men marking Zola's partner while the little Sardinian floats behind him. David Seaman is fit to keep

goal and his experience could be crucial. There is not much between the sides," Hoddle said.

an hour, when the game has unlock doors, it will be tight and it might come down to a lack of concentration in defence."

Hoddle added that European football has "respect for English players now." Up to a point. Italian press compliments have been back-handed, "Fistfights, beer, drugs and jail: yes, we're English" ran one headline in the Turin daily La Stampa as it listed the squad's past misdemeanours. Hoddle was praised for turning "a hunch of drunk-ards, pub brawlers, and drug addicts into one of the best national

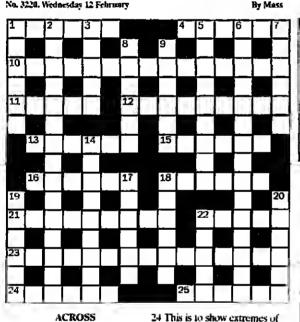
McManaman's efforts to Hugh Grant in a Merchant-

change people's perception of him, which he spoke about in Hopefully they will thus be The Independent on Monday, apcelebrating with, respectively, apear to have been startlingly suchottle of Newky Briwn, and a cessful. La Repubblica described cup of Earl Grey tonight: the contrast between him and

Hoddle stressed that "a draw would not be a disaster" but it would leave England struggling to earn automatic qualification

England have not beaten Italy in four games and 20. years, It will be difficult and tense but they now have the quality and confidence to do so."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



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- Driver, traveller in rough country, ignoring the heart of
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Published by Newspaper Publishane PLC. I Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 50L, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road Waiford Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 8#1370.

Wednesday 12 February 1987 Registered to a newspaper with the Post Office

Maldini's mischief with the

"Somewhere in here, I promise bringing in the Real Madrid you, is the Italian coach Cesare defender. Christian Panucci, as Mike Rowbottom group of around 30 supporters don't think playing here helps," he said. "It doesn't really mat-Maiding the IV reporter said yesterday, gesturing to a media scrummage on the Wemhley terracing which resembled an Agoraphobics' Convention.

As he spoke, the white pickup truck on which he stood revved into life. "Oh," our intrepid reporter shouted to his cameraman. "He's driving

In the meantime, the man who will guide his country's for-tunes in tonight's World Cup qualifier was busy saying as little as possible.

No, he was not waiting to see what line-up Glenn Hoddle picked before announcing his own and if his plans involved

sweeper in order to deal with Alan Shearer, he was not letting

No, he did not think Wemh-ley would hold any psycholog-ical sway over his men. "These guys play all over the world." he said. This is no different to oth-

er hig games."
For all Maldini's down-playing, however, the game does in-deed feel big and that sensation is not wholly the product of the febrile coverage it has stimulated in recent days.

Perhaps it is something about the inherent glamour of any Italian team. Even reciting the names of players only previous glimpsed on Channel 4 creates

joins the Italian squad at Wembley

a sense of esoteric relish. Di Liv-io... Di Matteo... Casiraghi... They were all out on the Wemhley turf yesterday, wear-ing blue bobble hats and gloves against the insidious dampness of a grey February day but their session offered little clue as to their tactirs for tonight as to their tactics for tonight. Unless, of course, they plan to

spend time hopping, stretching and chattering in an attempt to lure England off their guard. The players were helped to feel at home by energetic chant-ing - "It-al-ia, It-al-ia" - from a club-mate, Roberto Di Matteo, proferred a different opinion. "I

Dato, of Archway, said. Neither she nnr her companions - from Highgate, Golders Green, The Angel. Islington, and, in the case of Matteo, Quagliarini, Perugia - had tickets. But there were high hopes expressed that Dato's uncle, chauffeuring for the Italian squad, might be able

Gascoigne thus: "On the one

hand Gazza, who represents

the England of beer, the inner

cities, pubs, darts and tits on page

three of The Sun, the sort of

washed-up character you'd find

in a Ken Loach film; on the nth-

er Macca, who is all afternoon

tea, cashmere, the City and stiff

to do something about that. Much has been made of the potential advantage to Italians playing in the Premiership when it came to knowing about their English opponents. "Playing here is a very big help." Chel-sea's Gianfranco Zola said. His

Italian and proud of it." Enza ter." Good to get that cleared up definitively.

Di Matteo did, however, venture the opinion that lonight's game would be very tight. "Each team will treat the other with a lot of respect. If we lose it will be difficult for us. But we always have the return game in Italy... As the Italian coach ma-

nocuvred out of the narrow. players' entrance, the media dispersed to evaluate the infor-. mation it had gathered.

One onlooker was more than satisfied. The supporter from Perugia had managed a word with his city's more famous son. Fabrizio Ravanelli. And the Silver. Fox had given him his blue hat

Hall pays the price for failure at Bath

CHRIS HEWETT

The bleak realities of professional rugby left their mark on one of the outstanding figures in the English game yes-terday when John Hall, world-class flanker and champion team manager, lost his £60,000-a-year post at Bath. No one at the Recreation Ground would confirm whether he had jumped or been pushed. but there was no doubt that Hall

had paid the price of failure. Less than 72 hours after Bath's Pilkington Cup demise at the hands of Leicester, their

gerial scrapheap. He will not be the last. After a century or more of amateurism, financial freedom has thrust the sport into a whole new ball game, the rules of which are very different to those in force less than

a year ago.
Tony Swift, the Bath chief executive and a long-time playing colleague and close friend of Hall's, last night refused to discuss the precise nature of yesterday's boardroom deliberations. But he admitted: "This has probably been the worst day of my working life. An essential part of any job is the enjoyment

director of rugby became the gou derive from it. I can safely first big name on rugby's mana-say that I haven't enjoyed this episode one little hit.

However, he continued: "It is imperative that decisions are taken in the best long-term interests of the club. I have enormous respect for the things John achieved at Bath, but now is the time to make the most of

the future lying before us." It is the second time in tess than two months that Bath, league and cup winners last season but struggling this time round, have lost a key back-room figure. Last month, Brian Ashton quit as chief coach, citing frustration with the manage-ment set-up. Reports of a

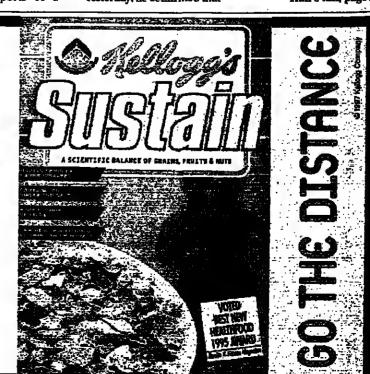
appointments would soon be announced. The new coaching set-up, under the command of Andy Robinson, will include Nigel Redman, the long-serving former England lock forward.

More intriguing thnugh, will be the arrival of Clive Wood-ward, one of the most imaginative tactical brains in the British game. The former Leicester and Lions centre quit his post with London Irish before Christmas and has been seen regularly at Bath since Ashton's departure. Yesterday, he confirmed that

personality clash with Hall were never convincingly repudiated. Swift said that new coaching that he would be no more than a member of the coaching team. If, however, Bath decided to appoint a new director of rugby, Woodward would be an obvious candidate.

Phil de Glanville, the Bath and England captain, confessed to a feeling of "deep surprise" at Hall's downfall as he arrived for an international squad session at Marlow yesterday. Jon Sleightholme, his club-mate on the England right wing, agreed.
'I'm shocked. There was no indication of this when the players met yesterday morning," he

Hall's fall, page 20



18 River silt rising round one

platform (6)
19 A Queen cracling one mite?

20 Ostentatious club (6) 22 Consort's with Queen Moth-

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